

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCER

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WEEKLY

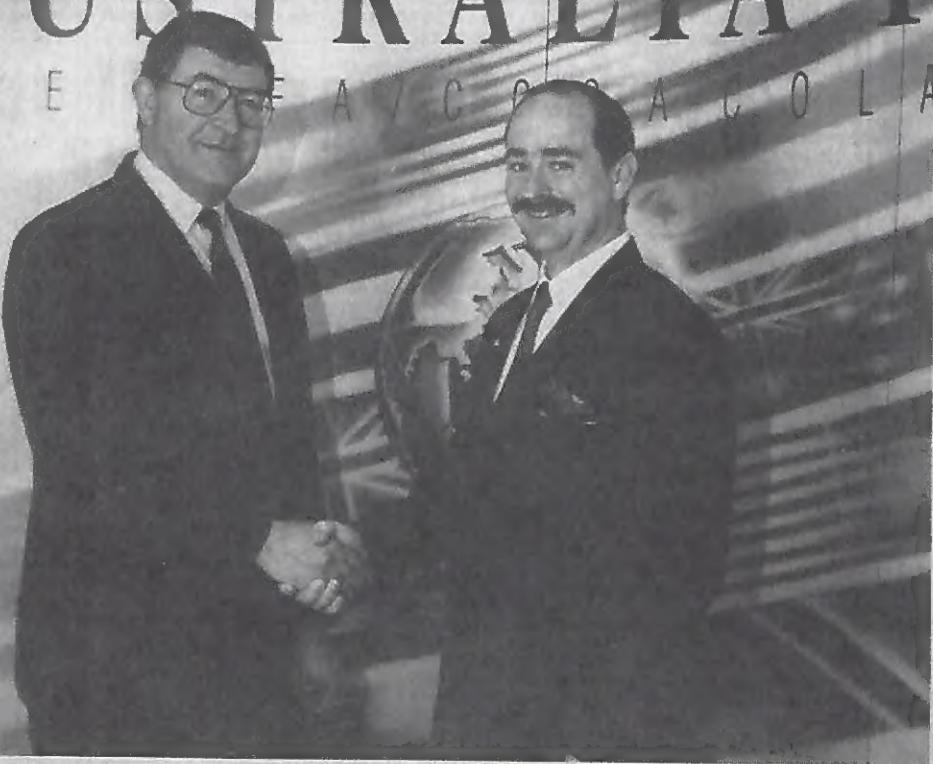
ASF new Chief Exec Ian 'Hurricane' Holmes

NOBODY'S YES MAN



AUSTRALIA

THE SOCCER MAGAZINE



New Chief Exec Ian Holmes (right) being congratulated on his appointment by ASF chairman John Constantine

Decision maker

BY TOM ANDERSON

NEW ASF Chief Exec Ian "Hurricane" Holmes is a man with a mission.

This is to take Australian soccer into the modern era, and get a better deal for everyone — the players, the clubs and the spectators, devoid of all politics.

He's a man who has come through the mill as a full-time administrator and is a thorough professional.

But most important he's not a 'yes man' and is determined the buck will stop at his desk.

He certainly will not be the 'fall guy' for other people's decisions.

"I think my reputation speaks for itself," Holmes said on his appointment.

"I'm my own man, always have been and always will be."

"I realise I have a tough task ahead of me, but if I didn't think I could handle it, I would not have applied for the job in the first place."

Once Hurricane has settled down in his new appointment, the cobwebs of complacency that festoon the corridors of power at ASF headquarters at Rockdale, will well and truly be blown out the window!

What ABSW says . . .

THE appointment of Ian Holmes as the new Chief Executive Officer of Australian soccer is a historic move.

This is the first time the game in this country has had a Chief Exec and it's something that has been needed for years.

The ASF has to be congratulated on the selection of Holmes for the top job.

Ian 'Hurricane' Holmes is a first class and proven soccer administrator.

He's built a marvelous reputation over the years as being a straight shooter and a strong personality who doesn't suffer fools gladly.

In fact, here is a man who has all the credentials to take Australian soccer into the modern era.

We wish him well and all the success desired in the important years ahead.

However, one aspect of the announcement of the Chief Exec last week must have brought a smile to the faces of most ardent soccer followers.

This was that the appointment has been made on the recommendations of the Bradley Report.

Something that we do not dispute for one minute.

'A WISE CHOICE'

But, after the selection of the teams to comprise next season's NSL competition which looked not to have been taken on Bradley's recommendations, it has to be asked just what is going on in the corridors of power within the ASF?

Surely, for the sake of credibility, this report should be either accepted fully or tossed aside, but not just used as a vehicle of convenience.

No doubt, this controversial issue will be one of the first addressed by new Chief Exec Ian Holmes.

THE EDITOR.

Big Ollie gets a reprieve

BY GREG BLAKE

THE Victorian Soccer Federation Board of Management has voted to partially lift the ten year suspension on former Socceroo great Peter Ollerton.

Following the receipt of a detailed submission seeking a partial lifting of the suspension from Ollerton late last year, the VSF board established a special sub-committee to review the case.

Ollerton provided detailed new

written evidence, not tabled at his original disciplinary hearing and subsequent appeal in 1988.

Ollerton, the former Apia and South Melbourne champion, was suspended from coaching or playing for ten years in 1988 after being found guilty of punching a referee in a Victorian first division match between his club of that time, Doveton, and Sandringham.

After reviewing the case, the VSF sub-committee recommended that the board pass a resolution to partially lift the original suspension.

Based on that report, the VSF Board of Management has deemed that although the ban on Ollerton as a player remains in force, he will be allowed to coach in a limited capacity next year.

From the commencement of the 1992 season Ollerton will be permitted to coach a junior team, should he wish to do so.

From the commencement of the 1994 season Ollerton is free to coach at any level, junior or senior.

In the event that 'Ollie' is charged with and found guilty of misconduct at any time, the VSF has reserved the right to enforce the ten year suspension in full.



PETER OLLERTON (right) on bench with TERRY HENNESSEY

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

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WEEKLY

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1/2 million was well spent

BY LOU GAUTIER

THE Australian Federation claims it has spent \$500,000 on costs incurred by the Young Socceroos in the past eight months.

That's the money that has been spent in several camps, including two weeks in Holland before the finals in Portugal this year, as well as the Oceania qualifiers in Fiji, the two-match play-off against Israel and the World Cup finals.

A government grant, the amount of which is not being disclosed, plus the levy on youth players in Australia will go towards recouping some of the half-million.

The ASF will not get a cent from the gate money in Portugal despite appearing in front of 112,500 spectators in the semi-final at Lisbon's De Luz

Stadium.

The host country keeps all the money and marketing income goes to Coca-Cola, sponsors of the Youth World Cup.

ASF chairman John Constantine is not distressed over the massive costs incurred

by the Young Socceroos.

He is aware that the publicity generated by their displays in Portugal more than repays the money invested.

He does not regard it as a loss and looks forward to the

1993 Youth World Cup.

The finals will then be held in Australia, and the ASF will keep very cent of the gate takings, television rights, and other goodies that come with the staging of a major event.

If organised properly, there is no reason why Australia can't show a nice profit.

And wouldn't it be nice if sporting success — another good display by the Young Socceroos — went hand in hand with a financial bonanza?



How we got the 1993 WYC series

BY TOM ANDERSON

THERE has been a great deal of conjecture about the 1993 World Youth Championships being held here in Australia for the second time.

The series of course was also staged here in 1981.

A number of administrators are at present going around patting themselves on the back and declaring what a great job they have done to "win" this series.

Well maybe this is so, but here's the real truth

behind the story — straight from the mouth of FIFA chief Joao Havelange.

During a press conference at the World Cup finals in Italy last year I asked Dr Havelange why the championships were being brought to Australia for a second time.

This was his reply (Quote):

"The reason is that it is Oceania's turn to stage the series," he said.

"And the only applicant from Oceania to hold the series came from Australia."

"And being the only applicants they were awarded the championships."

"It's as simple as that."

So now you know!



Bergers in a real slick deal



Heidelberg's ANGIE GOUTZOULIS.

BY GREG BLAKE

NATIONAL Soccer League club Heidelberg is two players and \$40,000 to the better following a succession of successful off-field negotiations.

Following on from the news that goal-scoring legend Gary Cole has returned to the club as senior coach, the Bergers had more heartening news last week with the return of two stars to the fold and the announcement of a \$40,000 sponsorship deal.

The grand one-year sponsorship deal, with Bob Jane T-Marts and Southern Motors, was clinched last week and came just days after both Jeff

Olver and Phil Stubbins settled their differences with the club and elected to stay on at Olympic Village for the 1991-92 NSL campaign.

The \$40,000 sponsorship deal, officially announced last Tuesday at the Southern Motors headquarters in Melbourne, has eased some of Heidelberg's pressing financial worries.

And the deal has thrilled club president Peter Tsaklis.

At the official launch, attended by Heidelberg stars Terry Rizopoulos, Angie Goutzoulis, Gary Bratten and Olver, Tsaklis said the sponsorship was crucial to the club.

"We are very pleased indeed", he told the press.

"We feel honou-

red in that both companies backing the club are very respected businesses.

"We are proud to be associated with them".

Both major sponsors will be featured on the Heidelberg jerseys, with the Bob Jane T-Mart logo on the front and Southern Motors taking pride of place at the back.

The sponsorship news could not have come at a better time for Heidelberg, which has recently been the subject of much speculation about its financial future.

More positive news for the club came in the form of the return of Stubbins, who had been linked with Preston Makedonia, and the experienced Olver, who had walked out on the club five weeks ago following a pay dispute.

Olver, who left to tour Greece as a guest of South Melbourne Hellas last Wednesday, has been convinced to stay by Cole, a former team mate at Olympic Village.

He had been transfer-listed for \$25,000 at his own request.

Stubbins, who is currently on loan to Premier League club Fawke, has also returned at the request of Cole.

Three players remaining on the outer at Heidelberg are Stuart Stevenson, who has been linked with Miron Bleiberg's Brisbane United, and transfer-listed Willie Herd and Stuart Cannell.

New men?

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

MARCONI could start the new season with an entirely new back-four, despite the vehement denials emanating from the club's officials.

Rumours have been circulating in soccer circles that right and left defenders, Robbie Wheatley and Jean Paul De Marigny, plus giant centre-back, Steve Calderan, were not going to have their respective contracts renewed.

With the recent sale of their dynamic sweeper, Paul Okon to Belgium, Marconi could take the pitch in the first week of October, fielding an entirely new defensive setup.

Already the skilful Milan Blagojevic has been signed from Apia at the bargain fee of \$18,000.

St George's giant utility man, Andy Koczka and Socceroo free-back, Ned Zelic from Sydney Croatia, are both believed to be high on Marconi's priority shopping list.

If all goes well for Marconi, don't be surprised to see the brand new back-four taking the pitch in the form of Blagojevic, Koczka, Zelic and Steve Georgakis.

Peter Katholos, the ball-playing midfielder is about to depart from Marconi, destination unknown, but believed to be Sy-

dney Olympic.

Should the 'Kat's' departure crystallise, the gap has already been filled by the \$30,000 signing three weeks ago of young South American linkman, Gus Cerro, from Melita Eagles.

Marconi's 'middle-line' for the new season will have the lethal look of Ian Gray, Gus Cerro, Tommy McCullough and John Markovski.

Flush with a \$300,000 'cash-box' from the transfer of World Youth skipper Okon, Marconi has not closed its order books just yet.

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Big game fishing

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SYDNEY OLYMPIC, 1990 NSL champions, have cast a net to snare fresh talent as they gear up for a strong challenge on this season's NSL title.

For the coming season, Olympic will be without lanky sweeper Tony Spyridakos, left midfielder Alistair Edwards and striker Abbas Saad.

Coach Mick Hickman will again be in charge, (third season), with his assistant, Geoff Harcombe.

Hickman wants to move quickly to plug the gaps left by the above departures.

Spyridakos was sold to Greek First Division side, Pierikos or \$55,000 two weeks ago.

Meanwhile, Edwards, (a free agent and currently playing in Malaysia), has made it clear that he will not be returning to Australia for another year.



ALISTAIR EDWARDS

also currently guesting in Malaysia, has been offered a most lucrative contract by club side Johor, and his transfer from Olympic should be finalised within the next two weeks.

Fiery striker Saad,

YET ANOTHER

The little San Marino

THE national football squad from the Republic of San Marino played its first ever game on November 14, 1990 in group two of the European Championship qualifying rounds. San Marino lost 0-4 to Switzerland in the Stadio Olimpico at Serravalle. For the footballers from the miniature republic at the foot of Monte Titano it was an all-time first in a preliminary competition for a world or European championship. A member of FIFA since 1988, San Marino is in the exactly the same position as the Faroe Islands. It was the Faroe Islands' very first European Championship qualifying match when they pulled off a fairy-tale victory over Austria. San Marino did not manage to equal their co-member's sensational coup first time round but sooner or later they will come up with "their" surprise.

No fewer than thirty-one sports associations are members of the "Comitato Olimpico Nazionale Sammarinese" — thirty-one sports associations in a country of 23,000 inhabitants is quite an achievement. Giovanni Vito Marcucci, the chairman of the National Olympic Committee is proud of the number. "We are a nation of sports fans

and Baron de Coubertin's motto still holds good for us; for us, the mere fact of competing is actually better than winning". The National Olympic Committee was founded in 1959 and 1960 athletes from San Marino took part for the first time ever in the Olympic Games in Rome. San Marino's athletes have not yet pocketed any medals but



number".

Their own national championship does not start until October in San Marino this year.

The reason for this relatively late start is tourism. Most of San Marino's inhabitants work in this trade and their high season lasts until the beginning of October. So the players are just not available until the autumn and San Marino's football association takes account of this.

San Marino's quaint stadium nestled among the hills.

The excellent preparatory training of coach Giorgio Leonardi did not suffice to pull off a surprise coup against Switzerland.



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6.30pm Sydney 'Eastside' Commodores

v

Western Sydney Swans ('Westside')

★ SECOND SEMI FINAL ★

8.30pm Canberra Eagle Hawks

v

Melbourne Buffalos

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

7.30pm **FINAL**

Sports prizes to be won

Don't miss any of the action at the arena

GOALS GALORE AT INDOOR

A member of FIFA and UEFA since 1988, San Marino has just under 1,000 licensed footballers. "Football is by far the most important sport in San Marino," explained Giovanni Vito Marcucci, the Olympic Committee chairman. "1,000 active players in a population of only 23,000 is an impressive



Football San Marino style in a historic setting

MINIATURE

San Marino's "A" internationals

23. 3.1986	Serravalle (San Marino)	San Marino v. Canada	0:1
16. 9.1987	Aleppo (Syria)	San Marino v. Lebanon	0:0
18. 9.1987	Aleppo (Syria)	San Marino v. Syria	0:3
20. 9.1987	Aleppo (Syria)	San Marino v. Turkey	0:4

European Championship qualifying rounds, Group 2:

14. 11.1990	Sam Marino v. Switzerland	0:4
5. 12.1990	Romania v. San Marino	6:0
27. 3.1991	San Marino v. Romania	0:3
1. 5.1991	San Marino v. Scotland	0:2
5. 6.1991	Switzerland v. San Marino	7:0
	19. 9.1991	San Marino v. Bulgaria
	16.10.1991	Bulgaria v. San Marino
	13.11.1991	Scotland v. San Marino

Once a week the cream of San Marino's players get together for a training session. The under-21 selection starts practising at 6.30pm prompt. Most of them are schoolboys and students and not overburdened with appointments they have to keep. For the "A" squad, it is quite another story. Many play for Italian clubs some distance away and are obliged to train there, some are tied down by their job, so training in a group often starts well behind time. Stefano Bertu, their 33-year-old goalie, usually turns up straight from the gym because that is where he gives gymnastics to San Marino's secondary pupils in the early evening. Their midfielder Yvan Matteoni (21 year old) works as a mechanic in his father's car repair business. "Ours is a small business so I have to work into the evening until the repairs have been finished. Our customers wait outside the garage and that is why I often turn up late for training", he said.

The 31-year-old postman, Marco Montironi, arrives on time for the training sessions because he finishes his rounds in the early afternoon. But he sees other problems on the horizon. "The trouble will come when we'll have to be away from our jobs for a couple of days for games in Switzerland, Scotland, Romania and Bulgaria". The true amateurs among them will have to take holidays to be able to play.

Taxi Drivers

The officials of the "Federazione Sanmarinese Gioco Calcio" discharge their duties at their "Feder" Calcio" on a voluntary basis. Their President, Giorgio Crescentini, is a sports teacher; the

coach, Giorgio Leonardi, works in the postage stamp and coin office, and the Vice-President, Lamberto Capicchioni, is a self-employed taxi-driver and owner. Crescentini commented modestly, "We play in order to improve. Winning is not yet our main aim. The Faroe Island's example gave us

a lot of heart but our main objective is to make San Marino famous all over the world through football."

The first bridge has already been crossed. Not only did journalists and television reporters from Switzerland and Italy turn up but media representatives from world famous news-

papers were on the scene to watch the first European championship qualifying match between San Marino and Switzerland: L'EQUIPE from France, The Independent and The Daily Telegraph from England all reported on football's tiny tot. And now it has taken its very first step!



Some San Marino players in front of one of their small-scale nation's many strongholds. The "football stronghold" has yet to prove its impregnability.

Superstar Bonini

"I'M very keen to play for the national team because I want to do my part in making San Marino famous all over the world" is a quotation from someone who has earned many laurels in football and who can virtually only lose by appearing for his national squad.

His name is Massimo Bonini, is 31 years old and is a professional for Bologna in the Italian Division 1. He was born and bred in San Marino. His parents' home is right next to the Stadio Olimpico in Serravalle, San Marino. His father, a builder by trade, built the dressing-rooms and stands of the attractive little stadium. Bonini progressed to Juventus via Bellaria (Rimini), Forlì and Cesena.

Over a period of seven years, he has played almost 200 games for Juventus Turin, winning the league championship and the cup as well as tasting victory in the European and intercontinental cups.

At Juventus he played in a defensive midfield position, covering towards the back and complementing as a counterpart the attacking style of Michel Platini.

He is now one of the undisputed core players at Bologna, his position has remained unchanged and his attacking team pendant is now Lajos Detari. Massimo Bonini's contract with Bologna is due to expire in 1993. Why does he insist in playing for San Marino's national



MASIMO BONINI

team, for a side with which he can, in fact, only end up as a loser?

"I know all San Marino's players since boyhood. I thoroughly enjoy having the chance to play with them again and, of course, I want to be there to make sure that San Marino puts its best foot forward in the stadium. We could also put a cat among the pigeons some day."

At his first "A" international for San Marino, Massimo Bonini did not manage to steer his inexperienced teammates to a surprise win. Of all people, it was he

— the only professional in the side — who bungled a pass that gave Switzerland their first goal. He let off steam about it after the match but nobody pointed an accusing finger at him.

His team-mates are hoping that he will line up with them again for their next games. "I'll gladly turn up again," smiled the 31-year-old Bologna professional, "because the older I get the more I enjoy playing and which footballer doesn't want to play for his country however tiny it is?"

The Federation of San Marino

SAN MARINO is tucked inland 20 km away from Rimini in Italy. A population of 23,000 occupies an area covering 60.5 sq km.

The capital, San Marino City, is situated at 740m above sea level on Monte Titano. The Stadio Olimpico football stadium is located in Serravalle near the border with Italy and accommodates 4,500 spectators.

An independent state since the 13th century, San Marino has had its own constitution since the 15th century. Its independence was ratified by the Vienna Congress in 1815 and incorporated in a concord with Italy in 1862.

Number of Qualified Referees 24
Number of Licensed Players 920

Address

c/o C.O.N.S. — via del Bando, 28
Borgo Maggiore — 47031 Rep. San Marino



President
Giorgio Crescentini



General Secretary
Pier Luigi Parenti

Number of Licensed Coaches 20
Population 23,000
Language for Correspondence French

Official Language

Italian

Year of Foundation

1931

Member of FIFA since

1988

Confederation

UEFA

Member since

1988

Championship dates

1st September to 31st July (annually)
16 Premier Division teams take part

Total Number of Teams of All Divisions Taking part in Competitions

48

National Team Jersey Colours

light blue

Shorts

light blue

Socks

light blue

Reserve Colours Jersey Colours

white

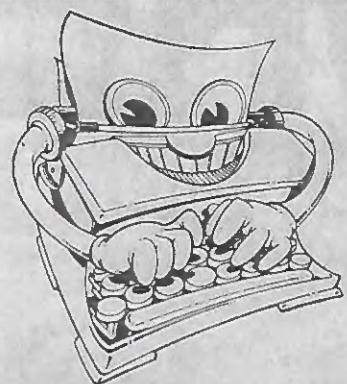
Shorts

light blue

Stocks

light blue

Chit Chat ... Chit Chat ... Chit Chat



YOUTH LEAGUES MIGHT EXPAND

THE National Soccer League is considering a proposal to create two southern youth leagues after an overwhelming response from clubs.

Victorian Soccer Federation deputy executive director Terry Jones said 33 clubs in the NSL's southern region, comprising Victoria and South Australia, had applied for the 14 available places.

Jones said he had discussed a proposal with National Soccer League general secretary Peter Russell for the NSL to establish a first and second southern division to accommodate the demand.

"We should know something soon, once the financial and logistical considerations are worked out," Jones said.

"We would envisage the two divisions to work on a promotion and relegation system at the end of each season."

The NSL runs its nor-



PETER RUSSELL

thern and southern youth divisions separately and the winners of each division's final series play off at the end of each season for the national title.

Jones said Adelaide City, which last season became the first SA team to join the southern league, was likely to be joined this season by West Adelaide which has been readmitted to the NSL.

The other 31 applications came from the four Victorian NSL clubs and VSF clubs.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Plea for help

PAUL Okon and Lorenz Kindtner have appealed for Australia to arrange future World Cup and Olympic Games qualifying matches in the European off-season.

The two Young Socceros left last week for FC Brugge in the Belgian First Division, after signing three-year contracts estimated at \$300,000 each.

They will be following the footsteps of striker Frank Farina who started his career with the national youth team, went to Belgium and signed a multi-million dollar contract this season with Italian club Bari.

"We would love to continue playing for Australia if selected in the Olympic or World Cup teams," said both players.

"But it will all depend on the club situation in Belgium and whether the games have been organised in the off-season when there is not as much



LORENZ KINDTNER

pressure to retain a team place."

Kindtner didn't expect to attract an offer from Europe after spending only one season in the Australian National League with relegated club Sunshine Coast.

He said he thought 22 or 23 was the right age to go to Europe after a player was more mature and his early call gives him a couple of years advantage.

"Every player dreams of an overseas contract and this is my starting point," said the Melbourne midfielder.

"My first ambition is to make the senior team

and then take it from there."

Okon, rated the top sweeper at Portugal where Australia finished fourth in the World Under 20 championships last month, will stay in Europe even if he doesn't make the grade in Belgium.

He will probably get his chance in the first team before Kindtner because Brugge has sold one of its two sweepers and is likely to trial the young Aussie before deciding whether to venture again into the market.

"I want to do well at every opportunity and move on. If things don't work out for me I'd be disappointed but that's football," he said.

"Whatever happens I plan to stay in Europe because if you come home you're defeated. If I don't succeed the first time, I'll just keep trying."

The two players are expected to begin club training on Saturday, with the Belgian competition starting August 17.



ACE striker David Lowe has re-signed for Marconi. Lowe signed a new contract last week which will keep him at the Fairfield club for another season.

This ends all speculation that Lowe would join Newcastle.

Also fixed up for another one year term with Marconi is brilliant midfielder John Markovic.

Exports boost ranks



FRANK FARINA against Israel.

SOCER has received a boost with a big increase in the numbers of youngsters taking up the code in Victoria.

The number of registered junior soccer teams in the state has jumped to a record 665 this season — up 27 per cent on last year — while attendance at a recent junior soccer clinic increased 80 per cent compared to a year ago. Victorian Soccer Federation spokesman

Terry Jones says the number of schools which run teams but have not registered them with Federation is probably double that figure.

He says the success of

exports such as Italian based Frank Farina and the recent signing of Young Socceros star Paul Okon by Belgian club FC Brugge sparked a keener interest in soccer.

Wal comes home

WALTER ARDONE, the former Sydney Croatia striker, is expected to return to Sydney from Malaysia late August.

Ardone, who has

just turned 20 years old, is currently playing with Second division side, Malacca, and is keen to find a new club in the NSL for the new season.

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S.A. LEAGUE	Div. 1				
TAS. NTH.	Lge. Div. 1				
WEST AUSTRALIA	Div. 2				
S.A. STATE	Div. 2				
TAS. STH.	Div. 1				
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Maier goal

BHP AUSTRAL 1
BLACKTOWN CITY 0

NEWCASTLE's Austral side showed how much they have improved in recent weeks when they defeated an in form Blacktown City 1-0 at Austral Park on Saturday.

The two teams had both been in good touch and Blacktown had gone fourteen games without defeat, while BHP Austral had gone eight.

The quality sides played at a brisk pace and there were chances right away to thrill the crowd.

In the 4th minute David Lowe's glancing header was just wide after Bobby Naumov displayed skill on the right flank.

In the 15th a fierce shot by Blacktown's Paul Burke cannoned off the post and Lawrie McKinna could have done better with the rebound but watched as Craig Carter got there first and smothered any opportunity.

Carter had less to worry about over a long range Peter Bennett effort in the 19th and the stage was set for the goal of the game.

A free kick taken by Darren Stewart in the 21st minute got through the wall due to sheer force and Ralph Maier thumped the ball into the net when it ran loose about 15 metres out.

Geoff Gunning was in the thick of the action with a number of sorties, invariably down the left flank, but when called upon to shoot, Gunning went for power rather than placement and the ball was sent wide on each occasion.

Mike Gibson was kept busy, finding some difficulty with a Bob Naumov corner in the 63rd and lucky not to concede a second goal when the

ball ran free in the area. Quick defensive thinking averted any serious danger for the Demons.

Blacktown almost drew level in the 85th a Peter Bennett cracker hitting the post with Carter beaten.

Three minutes later Austral showed they were not finished, McWhirter nodding over the bar after a series of moves between Maier and Naumov.

BHP AUSTRAL: Carter, Roberts, Jones, Boagard, Stewart, Deveridge, McWhirter, Meredith, D. Lowe, Maier, Naumov.
BLACKTOWN CITY: M. Gibson, Longo, Langton, Northam, Gunning, Mason, Callanan, Bennett, McKenna (Easthorpe 70), Bourke (Lees 65).

REFEREE: Milton Pollock.

Too strong

ROCKDALE ILINDEN 2
CANBERRA METRO 0

FOLLOWING their disappointing showing the previous day, Rockdale may have been expected to struggle against Canberra Metro.

In a game which had its share of excitement, Rockdale snatched all three points when it added a second goal to its very early strike with an 82nd minute Greg Lerond free kick.

In the 5th minute Dave Segreto took advantage of some uncertainty in the Metro's defence by stopping down and heading on to the lurking Zlatko Markovski.

Markovski went round the last two defenders and found the top left corner of the net from just outside the area.

When Sasha Lazarev-

MANLY NS 2
SYDNEY MACE 0

UNEXPECTEDLY, Sydney Macedonia, on the verge of making a big impression on the top five for the first time, came unstuck at Cromer Park when they went down 2-0 to the bottom club Manly North Shore United.

Macedonia, bent on riding their luck in recent games with another forceful display, failed to take their chances, especially in the first twenty minutes when they threatened to take the hitherto luckless Northerners apart.

For all that the first chance fell to Manly

North Shore in the 2nd minute Aidan Grimes racing into the area only to be thwarted by a desperate tackle by Macedonia goalie Tony Avellino, earning a freekick instead.

Big Mark Reveley made repeated runs into the home side's half and the 4th minute set up Zoki Adioski for a shot which went right across the face of the goal and past the far post to safety.

The in the 10th a good throw by Anthony Surjan led to Fabian Kadric having a free shot, but with Prentice beaten, Kadric hit the post.

Theo Kotsias gave Mark Butler the slip in the 11th and put Scott Gilbert in for an easy close range shot, but the league's leading marksman put the effort wide with a very poor delivery.

Kotsias went wide to give Adioski a chance in

ROUND 18 RESULTS

ROCKDALE ILINDEN 0 SOUTHERN DISTRICTS 0
BHP AUSTRAL 1
(Maier), BLACKTOWN CITY 0

MANLY NORTH SHORE 2 (Moss, McGregor) SYDNEY MACEDONIA 0

ROCKDALE ILINDEN 2 (Markovski, Lerond) CANBERRA METRO 0

AVALAI 1 (El Ali)
CANTERBURY MARRICKVILLE 1 (Ilic)
SUTHERLAND SHIRE 1 (Bard), WARRINGAH FRESHWATER 1 (Pierce)
POLONIA 0
SOUTHERN DISTRICTS 1 (Tasdemir)

A fine win!

POLONIA 0
SOUTHERN DIST. 1

POLONIA, under new coach Vince Montgomery, found the going tough against a rejuvenated Southern Districts at Chipping Norton Park.

The visitors managed a 1-0 win, thanks to smart work by the persistent Gurkan Tasdemir.

A determined effort by Polonia, a side with a sprinkling of youth to back up the Polish League stars, was not enough on the day.

Polonia played today football and committed players forward regularly, trying to build up steadily and rely on sound defence.

It came unstuck in the

52nd minute when Bruce Thurlow, patrolling well outside his area and acting as sweeper, nipped with a retreating defender attempting to clear a long ball sent out of the Districts' defence.

Tasdemir, challenging with these two for the bouncing ball, capitalized on their mistake, nipping through to steal the ball and place it in the empty net.

POLONIA: Thurlow, P. Richardson, Kwasniewski, Lasek, C. Thompson, Gatt, Hinton (M. Richardson 82), Straszewski, Seppeling (Jakubowski 82) Cooper, Nowicki.

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS: Pazzano, Genc, Canosa, Moon Cheung, Ciaramella, Gregson, Genovese, Card, Reed (Teppla 57), Tasdemir, Murray.
REFEREE: John Bowler.

Alex Siprovski.

Manly in big turnout



FIRST DIVISION
COMPILED BY
PAUL GOODWIN

Aidan Grimes headed straight down at the ground and when Matco Farac put over a telling cross from the right in the 85th which deserved a third goal and Adam Ciantar also hit a shot right at Avellino in stoppage time to miss a similar opportunity.

Before the end Macedonia had further chances to get square.

Prentice saved an Adioski volley brilliantly and a Koczka shot in tidy fashion, also in stoppage time.

Nothing was going to stop Manly North Shore United, formed early this year, from celebrating their first competition win and they may have gained the confidence to go on to more before the season is over.

MANLY NORTH SHORE UNITED: Prentice, Greenaway, Butler, Milivojevic, Doyle, McGregor, Ciantar, O'Carroll, Moss, White (Farac 77), Grimes (Turpin 85).

SYDNEY MACEDONIA: Avellino, Souris, Bozokovski, Reveley, Pilovski, Koczka, Surjan, Kotsias, Adioski, Gilbert, Kadric.
REFEREE: Manny Loupe.

Stalemate

AVALA 1
CBURY M VILLE 1

AVALA lost skipper Mirko Radosavljevic at half time and found it difficult to find any way through a Canterbury defence until the 78th minute, at the Serbian Centre.

Dennis Olla, in the Berries' goal in place of the honeymooning George Bouhoussas, was again in good touch and did well to deny Peter Vukmirovic in the 2nd minute, two headers being dealt with neatly.

Avala defended well, as Nick Oustambasidis created openings, but they had little to offer, themselves, in return.

AVALA: Pupovic, Drne, Radovic, Ashton, Radosevic (Kupresmin 46) Berry, Divljak, Beritez, El Ali, Vukmirovic, Fitzhamer.

CANTERBURY-MARRICKVILLE: Olla, Rezo (Popovits 65), Kladis 84), Mantzis, Radman, Yankos, Slavesci, Illic, Dounis, Oustambasidis.
REFEREE: Eric Cohen.

Improvers

ROCKDALE ILINDEN 0
SOUTHERN DIST. 0

A poor performance by Rockdale against one of the most improved teams in the competition, Southern Districts who almost got away with more than a single point from a 0-0 draw.

Bruno Beddini nearly gave Rockdale an early lead, hitting the upright instead and when the ball came out Stewart Porter, faced with a tap in, hit the crossbar.

Districts kept coming and could have snatched it in the 78th, Peter Murray beating an inviting offside trap and almost getting round Tony Frankenstein, before the keeper's legs blocked the attempted shot.

At the other end the

nervous understudy to Tony Pezzano, Hayday Arslan, had very little to do after the first few scares and watched his side put Rockdale under pressure. Twenty four hours later the stand-in goalsie was back on duty as a field player with the Under-19 side and scoring a goal to boot.

There was little the Rockdale faithful would like to dwell on and their attention turned very quickly to the next day's game with Canterbury.

ROCKDALE ILINDEN: Franken, Segreto, Lerond, Ralevski (Deveridge 60), Buchanan, Naumovski, Markovski, Petrovski (Bolevski 60), Wilson, Porter, Beddini.

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS: Arslan, Genc, Canosa, Moon Cheung, Ciaramella, Gregson, Genovese, Card, Reed (Teppla 57), Tasdemir, Murray.
REFEREE: Nick Asargoti.

MIDWEEK FIXTURES

DIV WED JULY 31

Polonia v Manly North Shore
POONDETTE PARK 9pm

SAT AUGUST 3

BHP Austral v Southern District
AUSTRAL PARK

DIV 2 TUES JULY 30

Campbelltown v Gladesville Hby
BENSLEY RD 7:30pm

Entertainment!

SUTHERLAND SHIRE 1
W RINGAH F WATER 1

AN ENTERTAINING SCRAP at Seymour Shaw ended with a 1-1 draw between home side Sutherland and talented visitors Warringah Freshwater.

Both goals arrived in the first eight minutes, but there were chances at both ends throughout the game.

In the 8th minute Warringah hit the front, Jose Iriarte carving out an opening down the right and finding Wayne Pierce whose pinpoint close range header gave Paul Dart no chance.

Frustration for Warringah supporters who have seen their side squander a lead before, as Sutherland equalized within two minutes.

Daryl Sharp, set up by Robbie O'Shea, sent over a good cross from the right byline and there was Grant Bard to end his own lean lot with a snappy goal.

Sharp cut the ball back from 12 metres out on the byline and Bard had time to control the ball before slamming it home.

In some of the best soccer seen at the ground this year chances were created and not taken for most of the match.

Iriarte was prominent and was wide with a shot in the 6th minute, before setting up his team's goal, but could have made it two in the 20th when another run ended with Pierce heading wide.

In the 41st Steve Lombardo was wide from yet another Iriarte cross this time from the left, the Argentinian having shaken off two good challenges.

Peter Gunning rescued the visitors in the 51st snatching the ball off the boot of Grant Bard who had run into the gap to

chase a delicate chip over the defence by Harry Christadoulou.

Gunning also got down well to smother a shot from Robbie O'Shea which had penetrated the wall after a free kick in the 63rd.

Paul Edmunds should have done better with his finish to a well worked short corner by Michael Lardis and Scott Leney.

Edmunds, unmarked, stuck out a toe, perhaps acting with unnecessary haste and the ball ran wide.

Apart from a lob over

the bar by Lombardo there was far less to satisfy the crowd of travelling followers in the second half.

The two points gained by both sides will prove very useful indeed.

SUTHERLAND: Dart, Ennor (Lardis 46), Edmunds, M. O'Shea, Blasaya, R. O'Shea, Christadoulou, Leney, Clinch, Bard, Sharp.

WARRINGAH FRESHWATER: Gunning, Etherington, Brown, Sterrey, Pierce, Miranda, Masl, Dean, Lombardo, Iriarte, McKe.

REFEREE: Chris Smyth.

Odd goal in it!

The deferred game between Polonia and Manly North Shore set down for last Wednesday which was called off, will be staged this Wednesday at Poppendelta Park.

Polonia are determined to finish the season with some good results and could return to the winners list here. A dour bottom of the table clash is expected, though, and while one goal would settle it, a duck egg draw is most likely, neither side being renowned for scoring freely this term.

On Saturday Southern Districts and BHP Austral clash in the first of a double engagement these sides have planned for the weekend. Australians are firing now, but Districts will make them work hard. Over the two days Australians should win at least one and draw the other, with a better result likely away from home for the Newcastle side.

Canterbury will be very sorry if they cannot claim maximum point courtesy of Polonia at Arlington on Sunday. The Berries have made a habit of drawing, but this time should get valuable point on the board.

Canberra Metro are likely to get some goals in beating Avala at Deakin Oval where they reign supreme and given Avala's poor goal scoring record, a comfortable win is confidently forecast, despite the derby nature of the game.

Warringah and Rockdale meet at Crome and the home side is favoured to run out close winners, unless Beddoni and Porter can punish a side which sometimes suffers lapses of concentration at critical stages of its games.

Sydney Macedonia, with a chance to make the five and a sound record at Jensen Park are likely to find Sutherland hard to beat.

Blacktown City rarely loses at home to sides from Sydney's North and his should be no exception, unless Manly North Shore have really turned the corner. A sound home win is predicted.

YOUNG CYPRUS

United striker John Manolopoulos helped himself to a scoring double, as United held down equal second spot with a 3-2 win over Campbelltown, while other semi-final fringe dwellers also tasted defeat, Granville 1-0 to Petersham, and Mt Pritchard 1-0 at home to lowly Gladysville.

Manolopoulos just 17, scored on his debut for the senior side last week, and on Sunday contributed a double including the winner as Cyprus continued their five match unbeaten run.

Campbelltown, on the verge of dropping from the finals race, took the lead in the 12th minute, Sepp Disch netting his first for the day from the spot after a foul by the United keeper.

Cyprus took command after the early set back, Tom Pontidas equalising in the 18th minute from close range after a nod down from Greg Johnston.

Pontidas again provided the scope for the second, threading a ball through for Manolopoulos to crack home a great shot five minutes prior to the interval.

Campbelltown were almost out of the contest, reduced to ten men with 62 minutes gone after a punching incident, but again Disch provided the spark, robbing the United defence to equalise in the 70th minute.

Deservedly Manolopoulos had the final say, cleverly chesting and controlling a cross from



SECOND DIVISION
COMPILED BY
ALISTAIR RUSSELL

Mavrides to score the winner five minutes from time.

Waverley once again displayed their pedigree, racking up their fifth win on the trot, a 4-0 demolition of a hapless Port Hacking.

Port belied their last place on the ladder during an even first half hour, Michael Smith crashing a free kick against the bar for Waverley in the 22nd minute.

Campbelltown, while at the other end ace striker Ali Nagi was unlucky when his header hit the post.

The league leaders finally wore down their opposition, Smith heading home the first following a Robbie Jerkovic corner in the 28th minute.

Eddie Tesoro curled home the second in the 56th minute, Paul Harriott beat two defenders down the right before supplying Robbie Jerkovic with simple tap in, with Jerkovic returning the favour for Harriott's 12th goal of the season in injury time.

Petersham remained unbeaten away from home after rocking Granville's semi final aspirations, with an uninspiring 1-0 win at Garside Park on Sunday.

Neither side managed to take control in a dour struggle, the methodical and physical Petersham against the South American style of Granville.

In the wash up one goal was always going to settle the issue, Petersham striker Nile stealing the ball from the Granville defence to score the winner unchallenged in the 62nd minute.

Alex Aroujo almost

per no chance in the 70th minute.

Finally Auburn pried a goal, Katovik cleverly turning the ball inside from the byline for Steve Wilson to smash home after 72 minutes.

Katovik again found space to provide Perini with the equaliser in the 79th minute.

Four minutes into injury time the ball swept downfield for Wayne Farnsworth who provided Smith with a perfect cross from the left for the Mt Druitt striker to tap in for his treble and the winner.

A goal eight minutes from time secured maximum points for Dulwich Hill, sending the Central Coast to their fifth loss on the trot, while second last Gladysville had to rely on an own goal in the 42nd minute to upset play off hopefuls Mt Pritchard 1-0.

WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE: GRADE 1						
North Ryde	15	14	0	1	8	4
Western Dist	13	10	1	1	4	4
North Finch	14	9	2	0	4	2
Epping East	13	8	0	0	6	3
Mt Druitt	13	7	0	0	8	2
Moama E	15	2	1	0	12	14
Gladysville R	13	8	0	0	13	11

WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE: GRADE 2						
Western Dist	13	11	2	0	8	6
Epping East	13	11	1	0	4	14
Gladysville R	13	4	2	1	6	19
Moama E	15	4	3	2	14	21
North Rocks	14	3	2	3	9	15
Mt Druitt	13	4	1	0	11	31
North Ryde	15	1	1	3	12	34

FEDERATION: SEVENTH DIV: GRADE 1						
Kingsgrove A	10	6	3	1	18	8
Ashbury SC	13	5	3	1	4	21
Syd Croton	10	4	2	0	2	26
Western Subs	9	6	1	0	12	11
Salvadorean A	9	4	2	0	14	18
Marrickville SC	10	8	1	5	14	11
City Cadets	9	4	1	0	12	10
Rockdale Y	10	1	1	0	10	29
Colebee	10	1	0	0	9	7

KU-RING-GAI DISTRICT SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Applications are invited from suitably qualified coaches for the K.D.S.A.: U/11 and U/12 Junior League and U/13, U/14, U/15, U/17 Youth League Representative teams for the 1992 season.



Applications close August 16, 1991.

Please apply in writing with full resume to:

The Secretary,

K.D.S.A.

P.O.Box 147,

WAHROONGA, NSW. 2076.

MARCONI FAIRFIELD SOCCER CLUB

SOUTHERN DISTRICTS SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION



NOTICE is given that Marconi-Fairfield Soccer Club in conjunction with Southern Districts S.F.A. are inviting applications from suitably qualified (level 2 minimum) coaches for the following positions for the 1992 season.

SDSF METROPOLITAN REPRESENTATIVES UNDER 11-12;

MARCONI & SDSFA YOUTH LEAGUE UNDER 13, 14, 15-17.

Written applications should be addressed to:

Y/L Coaching Positions

Club Marconi

Marconi Road

BOSSLEY PARK NSW 2176

Application close 30/8/91.

Enquiries: **610 2222**



NSW SOCCER FEDERATION LTD

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EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

from Clubs re-joining the proposed new PROVISIONAL COMPETITIONS.

Leagues are to be formed on advantageous financial terms.

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Write in the first instance to:
The General Manager,
NSW Soccer Federation Ltd,
235/257 Meurants Lane,
PARKLEA. 2155.



There's gold in the coffers!

TWO pots of gold are waiting for the NSW State League First Division clubs this season.

The first is for \$20,000, and goes to the club that collects the premiership, with a further \$2,000 to the runner-up.

In the NSW Championship competition, which is the Top Five, the winner becomes worth another \$6,000.

All that raises the question as to which club will be the premier, and further which will take the Championship.

Making predictions with five rounds and various deferred games remaining must be regarded as hazardous occupation.

Probably an extremely hazardous one.

But to take a good old Aussie stab is certainly a local habit, so why not give it a go.

After all, what is there to be lost other than a few real friends?

Any crystal ball job in State League is complicated by the fact that there is one point for a scoreless draw and two for a score draw.

Even more chancey is to predict which clubs will field their National Soccer League winter recruits to the end of the Premiership, and to be end of the Championship, and which will lose them.

SOLICITORS

Our firm specialises in all legal matters involving the soccer code, and including:

- a) Playing being cited for infringements
- b) Clubs being cited for bringing the game into disrepute
- c) Appearing before the Tribunals and Committees of the State and National Leagues
- d) Other general matters; (Criminal/Family/Compensation/Conveyancing)

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Ask for: Andrew Smymis or Mario Dilizio

At this stage we will confine prognostications to the Premier ship.

Take it as a sign if you will that the writer, despite all those meaningful calculations, remains not entirely convinced that the Top Five is a laydown misere.

At this stage the crystal ball says that Sutherland Shire will reach 46 points — equal with Blacktown City but with a better goal difference.

Right on their heels will be a revived Canberra Metros on 45, with Canterbury Marwickville (43) and Warringah-Freshwater (40) inside the five and the Championship series.

Sydney Macedonia stands to earn a well-deserved 36, followed by BHP Austral (33), Rockdale Ilinden (31), and Avala 28.

Down below could be Polonia on 22, with Southern District (11) and Manly North Shore (4) pulling up at the rear.

You need not take this as gospel of course.

But, then, maybe you could spare the time to do some calculations and see if you can do better.

Due to the limitations of press closure, the balance of matches below for the 12 First Division clubs include Round 18, set down for July 27/28.

Have a close look at where your club is

going, and also the leading contenders.

In accordance with NSW Soccer Federation plans, this season will see a highly competitive Championship series on the go during the month of September. It is something that should not be missed.

All games have been set down for the ground that has the best combination of playing surface and spectator facilities in the League — the Gabba Stadium at Seven Hills.

The exception is the elimination semi-final match at Seymour Shaw Park, Miranda.

Now to the remaining State League fixtures.

AVALA 28: Canterbury (h), Canberra (a), Warringah (h), Sutherland (a), Rockdale (h).

BHP AUSTRAL 33: Blacktown City (h), Southern Dist (h), Southern Dist (a), Canterbury (h), Canberra (a), v Warringah (h).

BLACKTOWN CITY 46: BHP Austral (a), Manly (h),

Syd Macedonia (h), Southern Dists (a), Canterbury (h).

CANBERRA METRO 45: Rockdale (a), Avala (h), Polonia (a), BHP Austral (h), Manly (h), Manly (a).

CANTERBURY MARICKVILLE 43: Avala (a), Polonia (h), BHP Austral (a), Manly (h), Blacktown City (a).

MANLY NORTH SHORE 4: Polonia (a), Syd Macedonia (h), Blacktown (a), Southern Dist (h), Canterbury (a), Canberra (a), Canberra (h).

POLONIA 22: Manly (h), Southern Dists (h), Canterbury (a), Canberra (h), Warringah (a), Sutherland (h).

ROCKDALE ILINDEN 31: Southern Dist (h), Canterbury (h), Warringah (a), Sutherland (h), Sydney Macedonia (a), Avala (a).

SOUTHERN DISTRICT 19: Rockdale (a), Polonia (h), BHP Austral (a), BHP Austral (h), Rockdale (a), Blacktown (h), Sydney Macedonia (a).

SUTHERLAND SHIRE 46: Warringah (h), Syd Macedonia (a), Rockdale (a), Avala (h), Polonia (a).

SYDNEY MACEDONIA 36: Manly (a), Sutherland (h), Blacktown (a), Rockdale (h), Southern Dist (h).

WARRINGAH-FRESHWATER 40: Sutherland (a), Rockdale (h), Avala (a), Polonia (h), BHP Austral (a).



ROBERT DE DECEGLIE OF FRESHWATER

A new horizon

THE NSW Soccer Federation has decided to open up new vistas for clubs that are at present outside its ranks.

great deal of interest, especially as there is plenty of time for them to discuss the position within their clubs and then submit an early application."

The NSW Soccer Federation last week advertised in ABSW, calling for expressions of interest from clubs that may well want to upgrade to Federation ranks.

The Federation's State League First and Second Divisions consist of clubs which are committed to playing semi-professional football.

The rest, including new clubs, are there to enjoy top quality competitions, and compete at the best standard they can reach.

The NSW Strategic Development Plan sets out schemes to improve playing standards and grounds as well as the public image of the game.

It can be of help to clubs in Federation Leagues as well as the new clubs.

Those clubs that wish to closely examine the potential of the new proposals are requested to write to the NSW Soccer Federation, 237-257 Meurants Lane, Parklea NSW 2155, setting out brief details of their club's present standing and future potential.

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION LTD

STATE LEAGUE

ROUND 19

DIVISION 1

SATURDAY AUGUST 3

BHP Austral v Southern Districts Austral Park

SUNDAY AUGUST 4

Southern Districts	v	BHP Austral	Rangers Stadium
Cant/M'ville	v	Polonia	Arlington Oval
Canberra Metro	v	Avala	Deakin Oval
Warringah F/W	v	Rockdale Ilinden	Cromer Park
Sydney Macedonia	v	Sutherland Shire	Jensen Park
Blacktown City	v	Manly Nth Shore	Gabbie Stadium

DIVISION 2

SUNDAY AUGUST 4

Central Coast	v	Waverley	Plum Park
Petersham	v	Dulwich Hill	Erskineville Oval
Gladesville Hby	v	Granville Chile	Christie Park
Campbelltown	v	Mt Pritchard	Bensley Road
Mt Druitt	v	Cyprus United	Poppendetta Park
Port Hacking	v	Auburn Yugal	Seymour Shaw

MATCH TIMES: (unless otherwise stated)

Reserve Grade commences at 12.30pm

First Grade commences at 2.30pm

PHONE RESULT SERVICE: 0055 22681

See State League action this week!

Victorian Premier League



Results

MORWELL FALCONS 1 (Wright) ST ALBANS 1 (Ketsakides), DOVETON 0 BULLEEN 1 (Incantalupo), CROYDON CITY 0 THOMASTOWN 0, OAKLEY 0 ALBION 1 (Freund), GREEN GULLY 0 ALTONA GATE 0, FAWKNER 0 B JUVENTUS 2 (Smith 2), NORTHCOTE CITY v MOOROOLBARK postponed.

Victorian Premier League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brunswick Utd.Juv	21	13	5	3	38	9	31
Morwell Falcons	21	11	5	5	38	21	27
Bulleen	20	10	7	3	34	20	27
Altona Gate	21	10	6	5	27	20	26
Fawkner	21	8	9	4	25	21	25
Thomastown	21	9	4	8	25	17	22
Green Gully	21	6	10	5	26	25	22
St Albans	21	6	9	6	30	29	21
Croydon City	21	7	7	7	23	26	21
Albion	20	6	7	7	26	22	19
Oakleigh	21	6	6	9	27	31	18
Northcote City	20	5	4	11	18	36	14
Mooroolbark	20	5	1	14	18	37	11
Doveton	21	0	6	15	7	48	6

MOST EXCITING/PLAYER VOTES UPDATE

LEADING VOTEGEETERS

10 **Gymnopoulos**
(Nth), Incantalupo (Bull),
MacNicol (Juve),
9 **Becvinnovski** (GG),
Hodgson (Dove),
7 Smart (GG), Luchesi (Fawk), A Cassar (MF)

LEADING SCORERS

13 **Becvinnovski** (GG)
12 **Pondeljak** (StA)
11 **Pappas** (Bull)
8 **Goutzoulis** (Oak),
Smith (Juve)

VIC SENIORS

STATE LEAGUE DIV ONE		STATE LEAGUE DIV THREE	
Kew City	21	8	3 55 17 31
Northcote	21	13	3 46 14 31
Spotswood City	22	11	3 46 14 31
Carlton City	21	12	3 27 22 28
Fitzroy Park	20	8	3 25 24 28
Warrigal	20	8	2 27 24 22
Werribee	22	7	2 27 24 22
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Werribee	22	7	2 21 22 22
Western Subs.	21	5	2 25 24 22
Ringside City	21	8	



Vic Health supports the
Victorian Soccer Federation



Hand of God

OAKLEIGH 0
ALBION 1

BY
CON STAVROS

IT TOOK THE hand of a lesser god to settle the clash between Oakleigh and Albion at Caloola Reserve . . . on Sunday.

A fourth minute cross by Albion's Les Carter eluded the Oakleigh defenders and fell to Andrew Freund whose Maradona inspired punch managed to send the ball trickling over the goal-line to deceive referee Barry Grant.

Oakleigh coach Cedo Cirkovic was dismayed by the referee's inaction and other controversial moments throughout the rugged encounter and clashed verbally with Grant at the end of proceedings.

Albion, however were worthy recipients of the two points, playing valiant and rugged soccer particularly in the final 20 minutes after defender Robert Butrakoski was dismissed.

sed for a second yellow card offence.

Surprisingly, Angie Goutzioulis fronted again for the Oaks started splendidly in the first period but after the interval he faded and Albion's Scott Patterson began to dominate in his wide-midfield role.

Oakleigh, certainly had their chances to earn a valuable point and stave off the looming relegation battle with the improving Northcote outfit, but failed to find the necessary accuracy in front of goal.

Albion player-manager Bobby Russell expressed overall happiness with his charges performance and must be looking forward to the up-coming mid-week encounter with Bulleen.

OAKLEIGH: Alexopoulos, Gourlis, Vagias, Haford, Haidaris, Leonidas, Goutzioulis, Lulje, Zamunil, Bitonis (Stefanou), Artes.

ALBION: Toth, James, Russell, Butrakoski, Grimaud, Carter, Douglas, Macleod, Freund, Patterson, White.

VOTES: J. Leonidas (Oaks) - 1
S. Patterson (Albion) - 2

What a miss

ALTONA GATE 0
GREEN GULLY 0

BY
VLADO VLAHOVIC

ALTONA GATE dented its title hopes after its second successive scoreless draw, this time against a determined Green Gully combination.

Although the encounter was free-flowing and fast in front of a healthy Green Gully Reserve crowd, it only ended in flashes, as many potential good moves continually broke down as players found the muddy conditions difficult to handle.

The game was even for the most part but Altona Gate had a few more clearer chances to score.

Only a few minutes had elapsed before wee Altona striker Charlie

Egan found himself with only keeper Charlie Sant to beat from five metres, but he sprayed the golden chance wide of the near post.

For the rest of the game clear-cut chances were few and far between as defences held firm. Altona's Zoran Todorovski, Vlado Torevski and Gully's John Campelj and a last minute effort by substitute Wayne Attard, hit his shot just wide from 20 metres, were the main talking points of the match.

GREEN GULLY: Sant, Hogben, Campelj, Kuzman, Bell, Chetcuti, Matostic (Attard), Bevincovich, Azzerperi, Hunter, Smart.

ALTONA GATE: A. Micevski, S. Micevski, McMillan, Momirovski, T. Markovski, Torevski, Davis (Kebaboski), Egan (Donnelly), J. Markovski, Todorovski, Z. Markovski.

VOTES: D. Hogben (Gully) - 1
A. McMillan (Altona) - 1

The yellow peril strikes

FAWKNER
JUVENTUS 2

BY
TONY ABATE

A LARGE CROWD assembled to watch Juventus defeat Fawkner Azurri 2-0 in which referee John San-

ta-Isabel became the most domineering figure on the park as he handed out no less than eight yellow cards in a game where tempers were easily fuelled.

With the game being monopolised with a

host of futile balls being pumped forward, Reno Minichiello became the target of some unnecessary punishment which resulted in Roy Walsh, Tony Schipano and Robert Tombolato being reprimanded by the referee.

Thirty-six minutes into the game, Juve re-

plied the best way possible when Brian Mac-Nichol found space on the left flank to spear a pass to Steve Smith who had no trouble tucking his shot away at the right post.

After the re-start, Fawkner took the field in a more determined state of mind, however, the inability to capitalise on forged opportunities was fully illustrated in the 60th minute when Tombolato could only hit a shot straight at Peter Laumets even though having a clear sight of goal.

Eight minutes later Smith poached a confident sapping goal when he converted a simple header from a Steve

Marley free-kick taken on the right flank.

On the stroke of full-time, controversy ensnared the match when Marley was sent-off for dissent and Frank Sabatino was given the yellow card after Laumets gave away an indirect free-kick which the Azurri's could not capitalise on.

FAWKNER: Anastasidis, Walsh, Tomolato, Schipano, Vlatkovic (Matic), Wilson, Lucchesi, Hanna, McBride, Retre, Errico.

JUVENTUS: Laumets, Marley, Corvan, Doyle, Dell' Rocca, Faris, Mac-Nichol, Sabatino, Smith, Minichiello, De Amicis.
VOTES: C. Lucchesi (Fawks) - 1
S. Marley (Juve) - 1

Murph tragedy

CROYDON 0
THOMASTOWN 0

BY
SHAUN ASHTON

THOMASTOWN and Croydon had little to play for which was reflected by the lacklustre performance ending 0-0, and all supporters at the ground probably saw the last of Thomastown coach Ken Murphy as a player after he was stretchered off the park with a broken leg.

With Gerry McAleer having a quiet day and

former Socceroo legend Murphy off the field Thomastown's fortunes were left in the hands of speedy Louis Bekiaris who often troubled Croydon's experienced back-line with his speed and agility.

Through their midfield work-horse Stuart McArthur, Croydon pushed forward with little imagination and many free-kicks given away they were never going to be a serious threat to the scoresheet.

After the break both sides continued to produce the same poor quality football with only Archie McGeachy and Con Ospinius making any effort to break the deadlock both players provided good support

to the Croydon forward-line but Thomastown's tight defence reigned supreme.

With Croydon's home record in tatters, coach Ian Dobson conceded after the game, New players have to be brought in who can play on this ground, as for the match it was a typical end-of-season affair which no one deserved to win, he said.

CROYDON: Runje, Lennon, Nolan (Ospinius), Brack, Brown, Dobson, McGeachy, McArthur, Humble, Kiepacz, Field (McCauley).

THOMASTOWN: Brian, Mihos, De Proptis, Karic, Di Martino, Mihalidis, Cristaldo, Murphy (Tsangas), Cocker, Bekiaris, McAleer.

VOTES: A. McGeachy (Croyd) - 1
L. Bekiaris (Thomas) - 1

Fabulous!

DOVETON 0
BULLEEN 1

BY
PETER SIOMOS

A LAST MINUTE goal by fabulous Fab Incantalofo saved Bulleen's blushes against winless cellar-dweller Doveton to record a fortunate victory and keep its title-hopes alive, albeit by the skin of its collective teeth at Waratah Reserve on Saturday.

The plucky Doves came within a whisker of causing the shock of the year at its Waratah mud patch.

After the game Doveton coach, Jim Train was rueing missed opportunities, I can't believe it, we were the best side but the ball would not go into the back of the net, he said.

On the other hand Bulleen coach Andy Bozikas was frustrated with his team's performance, We missed so many chances it was unbelievable, he said.

During the mudlark battle Bulleen's Incantalofo and Stan Thodis had chances to convert whilst Mitch Cattermole and Andy McCormick were denied by some fine keeping from Mauro Raponi.

DOVETON: Zeally, Brown, Cox, McMinnane, Hodgeson, Ireland, Bot, M. McCormick, Montgomery, Kazarlin, Cattermole.

BULLEEN: Raponi, Ventic, Krajevic, Ruccie, Marsan, Tuck, Mori, Thodis, Pappas, Incantalofo, Griege.

VOTES: D. Hodgson (Doves) - 1
A. Bozikas (Bulleen) - 1

It was so tough

MORWELL FALCONS 1
ST ALBANS 1

BY
JOE COLOSIMO

TITLE-CHASING Morwell Falcons kept its championship hopes alive after blanketing St Albans' NSL stars, in an often spiteful and eventful 1-1 draw at North Crinigan Reserve on Saturday.

In a lightning fast first-half in which Morwell thoroughly dominated but just could not find a way past irrepressible Dinamo custodian Mate Grgic.

Temps reached boiling point in the 44th minute, when a crude and awkward challenge by Dinamo skipper Mick Colina on Tom

Daly, resulted in the Falcons player as scuffles broke out onto the park and as a result referee Rutter dismissed Morwell's Kevin Harrison and Dinamo's loan star Ivan Kelic for playing their part in the melee.

From the resultant corner-kick Dinamo received a free-kick just outside the area for Chris Ketsakidis to bury the opening goal at his second attempt. From the kick-off Morwell were rewarded a dubious penalty by referee John Ruiter, which appeared clearly outside of the area, however, Paul Harris muffed the charity chance.

The decision incited the Dinamo crowd as scuffles broke out onto the park and as a result referee Rutter dismissed Morwell's Kevin Harrison and Dinamo's loan star Ivan Kelic for playing their part in the melee.

In the 90th minute a brilliant pin-point cross by Effie Cassar found Billy Wright, from eight yards he found the top corner of the net giving Grgic no chance and hence keeping Morwell in the title-hunt.

MORWELL FALCONS: Reynolds, Upton, Harries, Wright, Pender, McMillen, Roodhouse, Harrison, A. Cassar, Daly (Baldecchino), E. Cassar.

ST ALBANS: Grgic, Radic, Ketsakidis, Colina, Vanja, Bacak, Podeljak, Johnson, Silic, Kelic.

VOTES: P. Harris (Morwell) - 3
M. Grgic (St Alb) - 2

Muddy mess

NORTHCOTE V
MOOROOLBARK P.P.

THE RELEGATION battle between Northcote and Mooroolbark due to be played at the John Cain Stadium was postponed to a later date yet to be released because of a quagmire surface.

Northcote supporters will be excited by the fact that Oakleigh lost on the weekend and that they have an easier run home compared to the Oaks in their battle for Premier League survival, and hence will want to meet the likes of Mooroolbark and Albion without the burden of too many mid-week games especially on heavy tracks.

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The Via Veneto will be so busy!

Vlado Vlahovic's State Preview

TITLE-chasing Bulleen tackles fellow contender Fawkner in this weekend's huge Italian derby, which is shaping as one of the most important games of the season at the Veneto complex on Sunday.

Both teams will be desperate to peg back the deficit from leader Brunswick Juventus, so even a point apiece will not do.

Bulleen and Fawkner shared the spoils in an earlier season draw, but this time round the stakes are much higher with Bulleen looking more impressive this time around.

Fawkner goalie Dean Anastasiadis,

lanky left back Robert Tompolato, veteran Roy Walsh, industrious midfielder Mark Wilson, Heidelberg loan star Phil Stubbs, player-coach Claude Lucchesi, still going strong plus forwards Carlos Retre and David Hanna have all played a significant part in Fawkner's steady climb to the Premier League peak.

On the other hand, Bulleen have a powerful unit with Robert Krajacic leading a solid defence, Sunshine loan star Damian Mori adding a new dimension, midfielders Anthony Grbac and Fabio Incantalupo starring, whilst forwards Con Pappas and Darren Tuck have come up with the goods in flashes.

Albion, with all its off-field problems in recent times, faces an on-field situation where the club is hovering dangerously near the relegation zone.

Selwyn Park will resemble a mud bath, which should even things up, and possibly could be the scene for a major upset. Albion have played well against higher opposition without much luck on several occasions this season.

TITLE CONTENDER Altona Gate must continue its winning ways against lowly Oakleigh at Paisley Reserve on Sunday.

Altona Gate, the only non-Italian-backed contender will start favourite against a post-Angie Goutzoulis led Oakleigh. Loan star Goutzoulis was the Oaks inspiration and it will be interesting to see if the Oaks can cause an upset without him.

LEAGUE LEADER Brunswick Juniors tackles mid-table Green Gully in a danger game for Juve at Middle Park on Sunday.

It is no coincidence that Gully's recent good form has run parallel with the form of its loan star Sasha Belevnovski, but if Juve can

recently crashed out of title contention but will want to save face with a positive display against relegation-haunted Mooroolbark at Partridge Reserve on Sunday.

The Barkers inflicted one of its few surprises, when it defeated Thomastown in their corresponding earlier season bout and with nothing to lose it would not surprise if the Barkers managed to do the double over the red and blacks.

* * * *

ALBION TURK-GUCU faces one of its most important clashes of the season as it battles for survival against hungry title-chasers Morwell Falcons at Selwyn Park on Sunday.

Albion, with all its off-field problems in recent times, faces an on-field situation where the club is hovering dangerously near the relegation zone.

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CON PAPPAS OF BULLEEN

adequately stop him they surely must continue its winning ways.

* * * *

CROYDON CITY has totally collapsed out of title con-

tention recently and must now fight for credibility against cellar-dweller Doveton at Dorset Gardens on Sunday.

* * * * NSL TALENT-bo-

Doveton must now go hell for leather if it is serious about winning at least one game for the season.

sted St Albans Di-namo should be too good for battlers North-cote City at Chur-chill Reserve on Saturday.

THIS WEEK

Sat, 3rd August Round 22
St Albans v Northcote City.

Sun, 4th August
Croydon City v Doveton, Bulleen v Fawkner, Bruns Utd v Brunswick Juventus, Green Gully, Altona Gate v Oakleigh, Albion v Thomastown v Morwell Falcons, Mooroolbark at Partridge Reserve on Sunday.

STATE LEAGUE DIV. ONE

Sat, 3rd August Round 24
Bell Park v Ringwood City, North Geelong bye, Essendon City v Frankston Pines

Sun, 4th August
Box Hill v Melbourne City, Caulfield City v Knox City, Westgate v Mordialloc, Western Suburbs v Werribee, Springvale v Port Melbourne

STATE LEAGUE DIV. TWO

Sat, 3rd August Round 20
Glencross v Hampton Park, East Richmond v Kew Eagles, Carlton United v Mitcham United, Batman United v Morash University, South Yarra v Monbulk, Ringwood Rovers v St Kilda, Waverley United v Port United.

STATE LEAGUE DIV. THREE

Sat, 3rd August Round 20
Altona City v Nunawading City, Broadmeadows City v Geelong, Chelsea v Sun-Hills Heights Polonia, Clifton Hill v Kelso, Dandenong v Doncaster Rovers, Waverley City v Bentleigh Greens, Brighton v Richmond, Sandringham City v Sunbury United.

STATE LEAGUE DIV. FOUR

Sat, 3rd August Round 22
East Brunswick v Ivanhoe v Eltham/Dia, Valley Utd, Clarinda v Heidelberg City, Moreland/Collingwood v Coburg, Coburg v Geelong Utd v Moorabbin City, Seaford United v Oakleigh Suburbs, Springvale Utd v Fitzroy City.

STATE LEAGUE DIV. FIVE

Sat, 3rd August Round 22
Karingal Utd v Regent, Hawthorn Citizens v Rosanna, Cranbourne v Springvale Condors, South Dandenong bye, Hamlyn Rangers v Yarraville, Mornington v Boronia, Pascoe Vale v Langwarrin.

STATE LEAGUE DIV. FOUR

Sat, 3rd August Round 22
Karingal Utd v Regent, Hawthorn Citizens v Rosanna, Cranbourne v Springvale Condors, South Dandenong bye, Hamlyn Rangers v Yarraville, Mornington v Boronia, Pascoe Vale v Langwarrin.

PROV LEAGUE DIV. ONE

PROV LEAGUE DIV. ONE

Sat, 3rd August Round 20
Kew Park v Franklin United, Yalumba Park v Maitland City, Berwick City v North Sunshine, Matton v South Springvale, Brunswick City v Altona East, Williamson v South Werribee, Forest Hill v Westdale.

PROV LEAGUE DIV. TWO

Sat, 3rd August Round 20
Eastern Park Bronto bye, Brandon Park v Keysborough, Balcarat v Lalor, Nth Glenroy St Marks v Lyndale United, Uni of Melbourne v East Geelong, Hoppers Crossing v Mentone United, Wantirna v Meadow Park.

PROV LEAGUE DIV. THREE

Sat, 3rd August Round 20
Glencross v Hampton Park, East Richmond v Kew Eagles, Carlton United v Mitcham United, Batman United v Morash University, South Yarra v Monbulk, Ringwood Rovers v St Kilda, Waverley United v Port United.

PROV LEAGUE DIV. FOUR

Sun, 4th August Round 20
Diggers Rest v East Kew, St Kilda v Wantirna, Croydon v Kew United, Collingwood City v Malvern Lemnos, Baumaris v Latrobe University, Sunshine Park bye, Riversdale v Oakleigh United, Waverley Wanderers v Old Scotch.

PROV LEAGUE DIV. FIVE

Sun, 4th August Round 20
Cam Grammar Old Boys v Albert Park Macca's, Epping Hills, Broadmeadows Utd v Thornbury, Furlan Utd, Balwyn City v Doncaster Inter, Upfield v Melbourne University, RMIT v Northern United, Diamond Valley bye.

LEAGUE LEADER

Brunswick Juniors tackles mid-table Green Gully in a danger game for Juve at Middle Park on Sunday.

It is no coincidence that Gully's recent good form has run parallel with the form of its loan star Sasha Belevnovski, but if Juve can

Russell to stay put

BY GREG BLAKE

FORMER South Melbourne and Adelaide City favourite, Bobby Russell, will stay on as coach of struggling Victorian Premier League club Albion until the end of the 1991 season.

Russell, a former NSL Gold Medal winner, will remain in Melbourne until after Albion's re-scheduled Premier League match with Bulleen tomorrow night (Wednesday), before moving to Canberra to fulfil coaching commitments at the AIS.

Relegation threatened Albion will fly Russell back to Melbourne each weekend until the end of the season.

Russell, who took over as caretaker at Selwyn Park following the resignation of Terry Hennessey last month, has recently bought a business in Adelaide and, according to the club, is unlikely to stay on after this season.

"We'd like him to

stay and we are just grateful that he is staying with us for now", said club spokesman Bill Mustafa. "At the moment we are just clear of the relegation zone, so our

fate is still in our own hands.

"It is going to be tough and that is why it is important that Bobby is here to help us.

"We are hopeful (of

survival).

"The morale is

good and we hope

we can produce our

best in the coming

weeks".

In the run home Albion

plays Bulleen (at Skinner Reserve),

Morwell (home), Northcote (away), Mooroolbark (h), St Albans (a)

and Thomastown (h).

RECORDED RESULTS SERVICE

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SATURDAY MATCH RESULTS SERVICE

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GREG BLAKE PULLS NO PUNCHES



CROYDON PLAYERS CELEBRATE

Bulls on the move!

BULLEEN's Premier League title hopes are on the line tomorrow night (Wednesday) when the lads from the Veneto travel to Sunshine's Skinner Reserve for a re-scheduled round 16 match against struggling Albion.

Should it win its game in hand, Bulleen will be well placed to

keep current leader Juventus honest for the rest of the season.

And, should Bulleen play to form, it should have no trouble winning tomorrow evening's clash (kick-off 7.30 pm) in convincing fashion.

Juventus star Jeff Doyle rates Bulleen as the best side his club has faced all season, and rightly so, with Andy Bozikas' team boasting the most lethal

midfield in the competition.

Albion, although desperate to steer clear of the bottom three, will have no answer to the talents of Fab Incantalo, Damian Mori, Mike Branov and Anthony Grbac.

Bulleen struggled in for a 2-1 win against Albion earlier this season, but should do the job without too much fuss on Wednesday.

SUPER SOCCER SUNDAY WE'RE BACK!!!

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1503 on your AM dial

FORMER West Adelaide Hellas coach Alby Kidd has joined the list of names in contention for the Melbourne Croatia coaching job, vacated by 1991 grand final coach Ken Worden when he moved to Malaysia two months ago.

Kidd joins Luka Peruzovic, Ivan Raznjic, Ken Morton and Ivan Markovac as a candidate for the job at the helm of a Croatia side which has made the finals for past three successive seasons.

Croatia is also set to swoop in the transfer market, having singled out Ned Zelic, Damian Mori, Kevin Muscat and Ollie Pondlejak as key

recruiting targets.

Former Croatia player Branko Culina, who has always longed for the chance to go back to Somers Street, is still to apply and thus is not in the running.

Nor has recently departed Heidelberg coach Len McKendry.

According to club president Steve Mandekic the coaching vacancy will not be filled until after the club's AGM on August 3.

Favoured for the coaching job is Peruzovic, who coached Hajduk Split during its Australian tour in 1990.

The former Hajduk player is said to be considering offers from a Belgian and a German club.

Raznjic is also

rated a chance to return to the club, having left a favourable impression when he guided Croatia to fourth and third in the NSL, in 1989 and 1990 respectively.

Raznjic is currently in the United States.

On the transfer trail, Croatia has confirmed its interest in 19 year-old senior Socceroo Ned Zelic, but resigned itself to losing talented Aussie international midfielder Branko Milosevic.

"Milosevic is up for sale", Mandekic told ABSW.

Adelaide City has chased Milosevic for many months, but recently Sydney Olympic and Marconi have joined the queue interested in luring him away from



Somers Street without baulking at the \$50,000 price tag.

The chances of Zelic joining the Melbourne club hinge on the outcome of an NSL tribunal appeal hearing over the \$150,000 fee imposed on him by current club Sydney Croatica.

Sunshine's Damian Mori, currently on loan to Premier League club Bulleen, has already negotiated terms with Croatia, whilst the club has indicated its interest in Aussie youth team star Kevin Muscat and prolific Premier League goalscorer Ollie Pondlejak, from St Albans.

Fixture list alterations

THE following is a list of all re-scheduled VSF senior grade fixtures, with the revised date for each match in brackets.

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE — Albion v Bulleen (31.7.91).

VIC.DIV.ONE — Western Suburbs v Ringwood City (10.8.91); Mel-

bourne City v Western Suburbs (17.8.91); Bell Park v Frankston Pines (24.8.91).

VIC.DIV.TWO — Kelor v Altona City (11.8.91); Sunshine Heights Polonia v Richmond (16.8.91); Clifton Hill v Sandringham (1.9.91).

VIC.DIV.THREE — Lalor v Seaford Utd (4.9.91); Eltham Diamond Valley v Clayton (4.9.91).

VIC.DIV.FOUR — Pascoe Vale v South Dandenong (4.9.91).

PROV.DIV.ONE — Mel-

ton v Brunswick City (14.9.91); Malvern City v South Springvale (14.9.91); North Sunshine v Wantirna (14.9.91).

PROV.DIV.TWO — Lalor v Hoppers Crossing (18.8.91); Brandon Park v Wantirna (14.9.91); East Geelong v Lalor (14.9.91).

PROV.DIV.THREE — Mitcham United v Ringwood Rovers (14.9.91); Kew Eagles v South Yarra (14.9.91); East Richmond v Waverley Utd (14.9.91).

PROV.DIV.FOUR — Diggers Rest v Collingwood City (10.8.91); Sunshine Park v St Wartime Cretan (10.8.91); Collingwood City v Oakleigh Utd (14.9.91).

(17.8.91); Ettobra Uni v St Wartime Cretan (17.8.91).

The full round of matches postponed on 5 May will be played on Sunday 15 September.

PROV.DIV.FIVE — Epping Concordia v Melbourne Uni (26.9.91); Broadmeadows Utd v Diamond Valley (26.9.91); Camberwell Gram.Old Boys v Doncaster Inter (26.9.91).

The full round of matches postponed on 5 May will be played on Sunday 15 September and the full round postponed on 19 May will go ahead on Thursday 26 September (Show Day).

Award race

THE race is hotting up for the Victorian Premier League's richest individual player prize, the ABSW Most Exciting Player of the Year Award.

After 20 completed rounds any one of twenty or more players are still in contention for the award, which will be presented on Bill Fleming Medal night, later this year.

Three players, Bulleen's Fab Incantalo, Northcote's Alex Gymnopoulos and Brian MacNichol of Juventus, were tied at the top of the tree with just six home-and-away rounds to play.

To the winner goes the spoils, a magnificent trophy and a cheque for \$500 compliments of award sponsor, Pascoe Vale Sports

Scene, 413-415 Bell St, Pascoe Vale.

For a look at the updated leader board after last weekend turn to ABSW's Premier League results page.

Here is the complete list of leading vote-getters after 20 completed rounds:

10 — Incantalo (Bull), Gymnopoulos (Nth), MacNichol (Juve).

9 — Bevcynovski (GG).

8 — Hodgson (Dove).

7 — Smart (GG), A.Cesar (MF).

5 — Goutziloulios (Oak), McCallion (Moor), Nicovski (AG), Upton (Fab), Pondlejak (StA), Kourechiesi (Fawk), Cocker (Thom).

5 — Thodis (Bull), Vietkovic (Fawk), McGaughan (Croy), Dobson (Croy), McArthur (Croy), Micevski (AG), J.Markovski (AG), Raynes (Alb), Lane (Juve).

4 — Tombolini (Fawk), Leonidas (Oak), Panagopoulos (Nth), Turudis (Nth), Cristaldo (Thom), Grbac (Bull), James (Alb), Di Amici (Juve), Pender (MF), Collina (StA), Johnson (StA), Bacak (StA), Silic (StA).

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Let's get fair dinkum!



RECORD TRANSFER MAN PAUL OKON

RECORD TRANSFER MAN PAUL OKON

"AUSTRALIA is in the international market and our clubs must put international transfer values on their top players."

NSL General Manager, Peter Russell was very firm as he spoke to me about our clubs selling themselves and Australia short by transferring players on the cheap overseas.

"We (the NSL) are bringing out a revised contract for players which will have sections to fill if they go to a state League club, a national league club, or an overseas club.

The transfer fee would vary in either case," he said.

Russell was very much against clubs granting minimum transfer fee clauses in their contracts to certain players.

No doubt his new NSL contract was aimed in cutting this out.

So the days of top players such as John Markovski moving to Marconi for a paltry \$12,000.

Unless specified otherwise, Markovski could currently buy out his contract and head

for the big clubs overseas as a free player.

I learned of these contract technicalities a few days ago while enquiring of Russell on behalf of a player who has been seeking to play overseas.

Currently on the NSL transfer list at \$15,000, he is ready to buy out his contract, before heading overseas.

The problems of young Australian goalkeeper Mark Bosnich, who has been unable to obtain a work permit to continue at Manchester United, will dissuade him from trying his luck in Britain.

In the short term, he will probably have to leave his wife and young child at home in Sydney.

We are seeking a foreign club who will pay his air fare and accommodation whilst he spends a trial period with them.

If he gets a contract it will stipulate that his wife and child be flown over to Europe to join him.

I have arranged several such contracts for players coming into the country from overseas.

It is an exciting time, even if tinged with trepidation for players and

their loved ones, if married.

Some players settle in much better and quicker than others and it is dangerous to judge them too early.

But in the extreme competitiveness of European football, coaches do not have much time to allow players to adjust to new standards and a new environment.

Our Australian boys have proven to be very adaptable.

July and August are generally busy periods in Australia for the various tribunals which meet up and down the country to assess the fair and true value of a player placed on the transfer market by his club.

The most interesting case currently facing a tribunal is that of Ned Zelic.

Ned is on the transfer list of Sydney Croatia for \$150,000.

He appealed against the fee.

The \$150,000 fee only applies to the local market. An overseas club might have to play \$400,000, if his value compared to Paul Okon is used as a guideline.

Last week we discussed the benefit a profes-

sional legal man would be to both player and Australian soccer if he were paid to head up a Players' Association.

Australian Soccer is becoming big business, especially at the top end.

Our national league has far greater potential than the Australian leagues of basketball, Aussie rules or rugby league.

Soccer is the world game and Australia, at last, is beginning to make tentative steps up onto the world stage.

The success of our golfers in the recent British Open will happen in soccer.

Australia is a sport orientated nation.

We need the soccer infrastructure, clubs, stadiums and training facilities and the professional backup to consolidate the great strides made in the last two decades.

This takes money.

We cannot afford to give our best soccer players away for next to nothing.

These are our best assets: nurtured, driven around, formed into teams in their young years — since the age of four.

Coached by dads, mums, big brothers,

uncles, school teachers, rep coaches, then pros like Denis Ford, Casey de Bruin, John Fleming, then the big boys, like Arok, McKendry, Mariani, Thomson, Rasic, Scheinfug and Blanco.

Much time and many hands have etched their mark on players such as Zelic, Okon, Kindtnar, Seal and before that Farina, Krncevic and Mitchell.

Such diligence deserves its reward. In this case in significant transfer fees that would help build and sustain Australian Soccer clubs, and thus Australian soccer.

The Joeys' World Cup program

AUSTRALIA'S National Under 17 Soccer Team (The Joeys), left last Friday for the World Youth Championships in Italy, stopping for six warm-up games in Holland, Belgium, and Germany.

(Holland) July 31; F.C. Brugge (Belgium) August 2; Kleve-Geldern (Germany) August 4; German National Under 17s (Germany) August 7; Go Ahead Eagles (Holland) August 9.

The team will be based at Holland's Papendal Sports Centre. Telephone (0011) 31 8308 37911, Facsimile (0015) 8308 21853.

The Joeys move to Italy August 11. They will be based at the Ho-

tel Ambrosiano, Carrara. Telephone (0011) 39 49 70055, Facsimile (0015) 39 49 77209.

Australia will compete in Group B, comprising Congo, Qatar, Mexico.

The phase 1 matches are as follows: Sunday August 18 Australia vs Mexico 21:00h; Tuesday August 20 Congo vs Australia 19:00h; Thursday August 22 Qatar vs Australia 19:00h.

JOHNNY WARREN HAS HIS SAY

Awards all wrong!



Reel Award: Frank Farine, receives an award from Prime Minister Bob Hawke, with Charlie Perkins and John Warren in attendance.

While the Young Socceros' splendid deeds in Portugal earned Australian Soccer invaluable media space and gave our game a much needed profile lift, the Australian women's net-

ball "World Cup" victory rates a greater achievement in the eyes of the Australian public.

The netballers won the "World Cup" while the Young Socceros finished equal third.

If you doubt that observation wait until the Annual Awards Nights later this year and you can bet your life the netballers will get the nod over the Young Socceros as the "team of the year". All of which is totally wrong and merely reflects the Australian mentality of what is the "world".

Without detracting from the women's team effort, on a global basis, the Young Socceros achieved considerably more in finishing third than the netballers did in winning.

One hundred and six nations entered the World Youth Championships. To finish third the Young Socceros beat the African champions (Egypt), and the European champions (Soviet Union) and only dipped out to the eventual winners, defending champions and hosts, Portugal in the semi-finals.

On the other hand 20 nations entered the World Netball Cup. Apart from the small number, the sporting quality of the most of the nations competing is among the lowest in the world. . . . Cayman Islands, Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Singapore, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka, Western

Samoa, Namibia, Fiji, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, England, Jamaica and New Zealand hardly compares with the 106 nations which participated in the WYC.

In fact, had Australia soccer played against the 20 netballing nations we'd have been among the top four nations in the "world" for the past twenty five years.

Which merely reinforces the opinion that Australia would rather be top of nothing (rugby league, cricket, VFL, and the likes of netball) than be highly rated in a sport the entire world plays.

The report that the Socceros will be full time pros come 1994 World Cup time is great news for all involved in the Australian game.

Quite simply, Australian Soccer at senior level can go no further up the world ladder until our players are fulltimers.

At the highest level players who work and train simply cannot compete with players who only train.

Of course, full-time careers for our Socceros has been talked about for donkey years.

While all agreed it would be a huge lift to playing standards for our international players no one could come up with the funding to support it.

Former Sydney City supremo and Socceroo manager Andrew Lederer wrote a detailed report to the ASF some time ago suggesting the top 30 international players be offered contracts



ANDREW LEDERER

guaranteeing them a basic salary and the opportunity to be full time players in their own country.

Lederer believed that more players would stay in Australia if they could earn a decent wage and train and play full time.

Lederer's funding suggested a basic salary of \$120,000 for Socceroo squad members comprising . . .

\$40,000 from their respective NSL clubs, \$40,000 from the ASF, and \$40,000 from individual sponsors for whom the players would act in PR activities. With bonuses, PR activities and other sources of sponsorships and endorsements Lederer's plan would keep more talent at home, enable the players to train full time and also enable them to finally compete on an equal professional basis with the world's best.

Full-time professionalism for our elite players is a must.

We've known that for years.

How the ASF funds it and whether the funding level is high enough to keep more at home is, of course, another, and decisive matter.



DAVID SEAL

Dom's a dinger



Dominic Galati and Les Murray.

As the back slapping dies down after the Young Socceros' magnificent efforts in Portugal, one person has been forgotten in the many congratulatory exchanges.

While not having anything directly to do with the team, he was responsible for most of

the media hype surrounding the Young Socceros.

SBS' Dominic Galati, the national broadcaster's head of Sport, took a huge punt on the Young Socceros on the hunch they would do well and that SBS should provide live coverage of the WYC.

Without SBS-TV's pictures, the WYC

would have remained a secret, the Australian public totally unaware of what was taking place in Portugal and one of Australian sports' finest moments would have been lost on all in this country.

That the Young Socceros backed Dom's hunch meant soccer received huge exposure, thanks, in media terms, to SBS' pictures.



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SOCCER SCENE

WITH ALAN CLARK



WEST Adelaide is not concentrating only on the South American market for recruits for the new National Soccer League season.

Club officials have had no reports yet of likely purchases after the signing mission in Argentina of coach Vic Fernandez and three clubmen.

But West's PR man, Peter Angelos confirmed: "We currently are looking at another couple of leads within Australia."

"Once Vic gets back we shall see how we are going to proceed. There is no word yet from the team in South America. They are due to fly out home tomorrow."

Fernandez is expected to settle in Adelaide later this week to start pre-season work with the club next month for its NSL return.

One player likely to catch the eye of West is tall timber Irish striker Donal O'Brien of North Perth Croatia.

He already trialled with the club before the start of this Foundation SA League season and is the second leading scorer in WA's premier league with 12 goals from 13 games.

Sources in WA claim his contract is up at the end of the season but his fee is likely to place him out of the WA market.

If he is not fixed up by a club further east, he could head back to his old club, Derry City.

Branko Milosevic, who reportedly is too dear for Adelaide City to consider buying, currently is a team-mate of O'Brien's along with Mark Talajic, also of Melbourne Croatia.

FRIDAY was the deadline for the tenders for the second stage of the Hindmarsh Stadium redevelopment.

The State Government will allocate the work which is expected to begin early next month.

All of the second phase of stadium updating, including improving change rooms, installing corporate boxes and updating media facilities and the boardroom and administration areas should be completed by October or November.

Improved spectator facilities are keyed in for the next stage of development when more funds are made available.

THE sleeping giant of soccer is awakening in the Adelaide Hills.

South Australia



Too expensive: BRANKO MILOSEVIC.

And Blackwood Soccer Club hopes to be its focal point in a blossoming future.

Blackwood itself plans to introduce two development squads over the summer but the special Adelaide Hills Junior Development squad under the guidance of Steve van der Veeden and Simon Ballard already is making giant strides forward.

As part of a concerted effort to have Blackwood seen as the end of a pipeline for local junior talent, the Hills club plans to introduce special summer coaching for 11-13 year-olds an 14-18 years.

"We hope to concentrate on every aspect of the game and give free, specialised coaching one or two nights a week throughout the summer," new Blackwood coach Donald Campbell said.

THERE appears to be no major obstacles to the Ampol Cup going ahead again next season.

"We just want to work out a few other details with soccer officials," Ampol State and NT manager Ted Wziontek said.

"I should be meeting with them this week to iron out everything."

"We want more than a six-week exposure of the company pre-season."

"We shall see what kind of package the SA

Soccer Federation can come up with."

FORMER Adelaide City and Croatia midfielder Jesper Sorensen's team in Denmark just has been relegated to the Second Division.

It lost its match to his former club KB Copenhagen and made the drop.

Sorensen is expected back in SA in November for a holiday break.

LOCAL referees are to hold a quiz night next month in the Black Lion to raise funds for CanTeen.

BIRKALLA Eagles buzz-bomb attacker Ted Briscoe still is said to be interesting Wollongong City.

Coach David Ratcliffe has asked for permission to talk with the striking midfielder.

TIME looks to be running out for the formation of a sponsored youth league to run fully in conjunction with this season's NSL.

The overall concept of a youth set-up in SA looks likely to be warmly received — but on terms compatible to all clubs in SA not just NSL outfits Adelaide City and West Adelaide.

Should local Foundation SA League teams submit entries to a summer set-up their kids would have to play 12 months each year.

burn-out situation and counter-productive to improving future standards in SA.

There seems to be a big turnaround in opinion over the benefit of SA's NSL 'giants' entering teams in the Victoria-based National Youth League.

When Adelaide City initially entered, president Charlie Caruso was quoted as saying his club's outstanding young players would receive immense benefit by playing in it.

"They would find it most beneficial because they would be playing against players of their own age in a high-standard competition," Caruso said.

"It would be better for the club because the NSL coach would know which players he can turn to from the youth team."

Caruso said the NSL switch to summer had made it imperative City had a second team play in parallel with the NSL squad.

But, it seems, in hindsight, the costs involved and standard of opposition meant competing was not as beneficial as believed.

Thoughts then centered on a less costly local set-up. But City and West Adelaide now may have to revert to last year's format of playing Victorian youth sides.

FORMER Austria and Port Adelaide

South Australia

favourite John Baines now is setting much higher goals.

He is off in October for a trek up Mt Everest.

The superfit evergreen will not try to make it to the top.

"I'll just be going to 21,000ft if I can make it," said the father of former Port and Para player Andy.

Andy now plays with the West Beach amateurs, another former team of his dad's.

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FORMER Austria and Port Adelaide

South Australia

USCLion's giant teenage defender Doug Paterson is to try his luck in British Soccer.

Paterson, 18, the bargain buy of the season in the Foundation SA League, leaves early next month for Scotland.

He hopes to train and trial there with his favourite team, Heart of Midlothian, in Edinburgh.

But he also has an opening with English First Division side Nottingham Forest.

"I decided to go now because teams there are getting ready for their new season and there could be some openings," the gentle giant said.

"I want to go to Hearts first but Bryan Kent, of Lion, has helped arrange an opening at Nottingham Forest where he used to play."

"I went over to Scotland in 1988 but decided then to return here for a bit more experience."

"I am determined to make a go of things this time if I can — even if that means playing for a junior team and trying to get spotted that way."

Paterson, who was in the final 22-player squad for the world championship Joeys in 1987, had made a huge impact this year with Lion after arranging his own move from Croatia.

Andy now plays with the West Beach amateurs, another former team of his dad's.

He initially plans to stay in the UK for two months to see how things go. If he is successful, he will stay.

The tall, solidly-built youngster crams plenty of skill into his huge frame. He could be just the ticket for some progressive club.

THE computer age is likely to come to the SA

Soccer Federation early next month.

Negotiations are going on with a computer firm about installing a system in soccer HQ at Hindmarsh.

Andrew Marchant, secretary of the SA Division of the Australian Soccer Referees Federation, has been researching the SASF's computer requirements and has made recommendations to the board.

"Hopefully, we soon shall have all systems go," SASF chief Tony Farrugia said. "Disciplinary details, league tables, league tables etc. will be able to be put on system. It will streamline and update the whole administrative procedure."

CD APAC chief Bobby Anderson is alarmed by the apparent lack of youngsters playing soccer in the Elizabeth

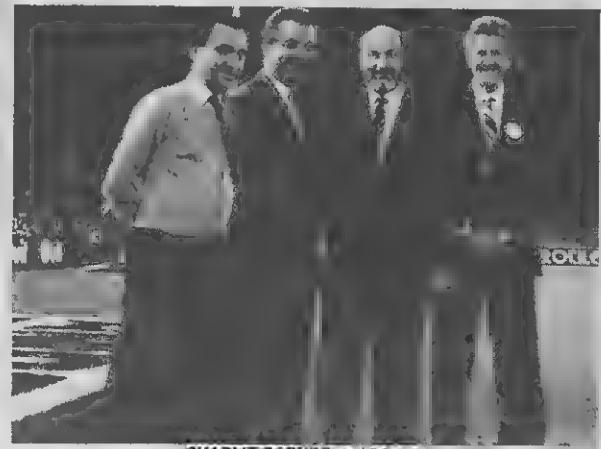
"I don't know where the numbers have gone," Anderson said. "There are eight different zones up here and they all seem to be struggling a bit compared to past years in the under-6 to under-14 age groups."

Despite the struggle for numbers and for clubs to keep ahead next season for APAC.

"We long have been seen as an old man's team but the other weekend 11 of our squad of 13 was under 23-years-old," Anderson said.

"They could keep us in good stead for next year. We would like to try to attract one of the right kind of experienced player to help us along."

APAC is coached by former Socceroo Bobby Hogg.



CHARLIE CARUSO and friends



South Australia





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Big boost for Queensland NSL hopes

GREG RUSSELL LOOKS AT THE SUNSHINE STATE

DUTCH International Wim Hofkens could be a trump signing for Brisbane United this season.

The Queensland club are in intense negotiations with the talented sweeper who is looking for a move from Belgian club Mechelen.

Hofkens is currently with Mechelen on their end of season tour to Greece and is expected to advise Brisbane United of his intentions this week.

"He's very interested in coming, and it has come down to whether he finds our offer acceptable," said United spokesman Lawrence Oudendyk.

Hofkens, 30, has played for Holland 15 times and was involved in an \$800,000 transfer from Ajax to Mechelen.

But he had an unhappy time in the Belgian First Division last season, falling out with the coach and spending much of the year in reserves. If he comes to Australia, it will be for a one season loan only as United openly admit they could never afford his likely transfer fee.

Brisbane United were put onto the defensive act by a Belgian agent known by United coach Miron Bleiberg.

"It was a bit of an outside hope but the agent thought it was worth a try because he knew Wim was not happy," Oudendyk said.

"We have been very pleased at how far the negotiations have progressed, but we don't want to get too hopeful."

"It's a bit of a wild-card, but we've got our fingers crossed."

If United are successful in securing Hofkens, it seems unlikely the club would push ahead with signing Sydney Croatia's Olympic team ace Ned Zelic.

Zelic was in Brisbane again last week awaiting the hearing of the appeal against his hefty transfer fee.

The delay has frustrated United officials

as the club fears it could be caught in a situation of having to decide on one of the players before the chances of getting the other is known. It would be tragic to commit themselves one way, then find the other choice becomes an easier or less costly exercise.

The news of negotiations with the Dutchman finally alerted anxious Brisbane United fans of long-awaited activity in the National League club's camp. And it appears more signings will be revealed in the coming weeks.

Up to six locals are believed to have been offered terms for the train-on squad of 27. Oudendyk confirmed terms had been agreed, although the identity of the players will not be revealed until their clubs are notified.

Sixty locals does not cost Brisbane United any fees as the member clubs have agreed to release up to three players each for three years.

Oudendyk also confirmed negotiations were underway with a number of other overseas and interstate players.

Former QSF Development Officer Allan Evans, who returned to Britain early this year after a short stint at Perry Park, has been acting as a scout for Brisbane United.

He is believed to have put the club onto a well-credentialled striker and an experienced midfielder.

Brisbane United also are negotiating with former bustling Heidelberg striker Stuart Stevenson and New Zealand international Danny Halligan. Former Young Socceroo Mirko Runje also has been given a chance to resurrect his NSL career but must finish his Victorian League commitments with Croydon before heading north for a trial.

Brisbane United played their first match, and tasted success, a week ago in a trial against Juan Cutillas' United goals.

But the star of the night was young Toowoomba goalkeeper Jeff Phelps, who repelled the Queensland attacks and overshadowed Maroons keeper Stu Woodruffe.

And they proved to be anything but that in outplaying Cutillas' Queensland.

Pine Rivers striker John Preston, who was left out of the inaugural Brisbane United train-on squad two months ago, showed why he was rated by the critics as a shock omission when he netted both United goals.



WANTED STAR NED ZELIC

TICKETS are now available for the Presentation Night for the 1991 Miss Soccer Quest.

Nominations for the competition closed on July 26 and judging will begin soon.

As in past years, the final judging will be done at the presentation function, to again be held at the Ital-Australian Centre at Newmarket.

This year's function will be held on Saturday, August 17. Entries have poured



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available from Perry Park. They are \$32.50 (single) or \$60 (double) which includes a three-course meal.

Many clubs are expected to book tables to support their entrant on the night.

AROUND THE NATION

Coach travel bug skittles Canberra!

**From our man
in Canberra
Graham Cooke**

TRAVEL may broaden the mind, but it has done nothing to improve Canberra's chances of claiming NSW League honours in the five seasons the club has spent in the competition.

A breakdown of home-and-away statistics since 1987 shows that the club has consistently lost championships because it cannot get close to matching its superb home performances on the grounds of opponents.

Incredibly, only six league games have been lost on ACT territory — and half of those in the 1988 season when the club was battling for financial survival and the circumstances were hardly normal.

Yet in the same period the club has lost 19 times on the grounds of its opponents.

There is no clearer indication of the difference than in the 1989 season when Canberra scored nine wins, a draw and a loss at home, while winning four and losing seven away — overall its best home performance and its worst away in a single season.

And while fans will look back at the single home loss to Rockdale Ilinden as dooming last season's championship chances, the fact remains that only half the available away matches were won.

The trend continues this season with the Metros still unbeaten at home, yet coming off a run of three consecutive losses, including a cup match away.

So, unless the club can improve its away showings, the championship is going to remain the elusive grail. What can be done?

Traditionally, matches are more difficult to win away from home. Unfamiliar grounds, antagonistic crowds, the strain of travelling itself are the most frequently quoted factors.

In the NSW League the first two do not normally apply — the competition is small and unchanging enough for most players to know what to expect on, say, a visit to Arlington Oval or Jenson Park — and for styles and systems to be adjusted accordingly.

Similarly, except for visits to Avala, the crowds are too small and docile to make much of an impact.

Travel itself is a problem. Of course, it would be great if the finance existed to fly the team to Sydney, Newcastle and Wollongong, but the next best thing is a roomy, comfortable bus and this is being provided.

Another alternative is overnight travel, but my guess is majority of players prefer an additional night at home even if it means getting up at the crack of dawn.

Of course, four hours on the road can never be the ideal preparation for a game, but the big advantage the Metros have over their opponents is that they do it every second week as opposed to once a season. It should be possible to develop routines, both personal and as a team, which can minimise the disadvantage.

Coach Tom Sermanni has agonised over its performance while he has been in charge — a draw and three losses is hardly something to cheer about — yet on top of all the problems of coping with two teams and unavailable, injured or suspended players, it must also be noted that three of those four games were away from home.

A comparison of Canberra's home-and-away records since it has been a member of the NSW League is as follows. Only league games have been included.

1987: HOME — Won 10, Drawn 2, Lost 1, For 34, Against 8. AWAY — 8, 2, 3, 19, 11. FINAL POSITION: 2nd.

1988: HOME — 5, 5, 3, 19, 15. AWAY — 4, 4, 5, 23, 21. FINAL POSITION: 8th.

1989: HOME — 9, 1, 1, 23, 8. AWAY — 4, 0, 7, 19, 17. FINAL POSITION: 2nd.

1990: HOME — 7, 0, 1, 27, 9. AWAY — 4, 3, 1, 13, 4. FINAL POSITION: 2nd.

1991 (to July 21): HOME — 6, 2, 0, 14, 2 AWAY — 2, 3, 3, 11, 15. FINAL POSITION: ?



METRO COACH TOM SERMANI

THE 16 members of the ACT senior soccer squad to play four matches against New Caledonia and Fiji next month are all conscious of the boost it will bring to Canberra soccer, coach Steve Forshaw says.

"Some of them at least are being asked to train three times a week as well as play on Sundays and that's a lot for part-timers," he said. "But we've had excellent co-operation from the clubs."

"There were one or two players who were initially considered and weren't available, but generally this is the side we wanted."

"Our biggest advantage is that the vast majority of them have had experience at a high level."

"Then, because on the tour of Fiji we'll be playing three games in a week, the squad contains a number of people who can fill more than one position — that's important considering only 16 are

making the trip.

"Coming after a home game with New Caledonia it's a big ask for players used to just one game a week."

"At this level there's obviously no need to worry about basic techniques and the task (ACT coaching director) Jim Hayes and myself have been concentrating on getting them together as a unit."

Bad weather has not helped. "From here on training will consist of either playing a game or working on some things we have identified as needing correction — and that will be it," Forshaw said.

"I have a reasonable idea on what the starting line-up will be. It's more a matter of match practice now."

Forshaw knows little of the Fijians apart from what he has seen on television — New Caledonia is a complete mystery.

On the club front, Forshaw feels he is winning the struggle to motivate his Belconnen United team after the triple

triumph of 1990.

"Not purely because of that, but as one of the consequences, we have played badly through most of this season," he said.

"But in recent games there have been signs that we have turned the corner — and the good thing is that we are still within striking range of major honours."

"If we can put a run of four or five wins together now, we will be a threat both for the championship and the Ampol Cup."

"I don't think the standard of the league is that much higher than last year when we won everything. What has happened is that the teams which were just behind us have improved, while we've stood still."

"That's had the effect of evening the competition which, in turn, has made it a lot more interesting."

"Of our main rivals, we've got to play Olympic and Tuggeranong again, so Belconnen is still interested in retaining the championship."

Toms are off to new home!

BY GREG BLAKE

VICTORIAN Premier League club Thomastown will leave its Partridge Reserve home for greener pastures within the next three years.

The club was the big winner at a recent Whittlesea Council meeting when the council decided in favour of Thomastown being granted sole occupancy of an NSL standard soccer stadium to be built in the area.

Die-hard Thomastown supporters turned out in force for the council meeting on the ground issue, with many showing their delight with cheers when the Whittlesea Council made the announcement.

The Premier League club has to fight off a concerted bid by Preston Makedonia to get the right to use the new stadium.

Preston had reque-

sted to use facilities on the Cooper Street site.

Thomastown secretary Tony Raponi said he was thrilled at the news that his club had succeeded in its bid.

"We had to show we were very serious about the issue, but we got our house in order and have been promised the stadium," he said last week.

"We are very happy at the result, it is what we have wanted and waited for because, in many ways, our existence was at stake."

Thomastown, officially known as TEL (Thomastown, Epping and Lalor), won the bid based on the fact that the club was promised the ground some years ago and that sharing it with an NSL club would endanger Thomastown's local identity.

Building on the new stadium is expected to commence next year.

ACT BRIEFS

A growing band of men and women are quietly going about the business of making Canberra's sports grounds safer places to play in.

They are members of the ACT Sports Trainers' Association, increasingly the first people a player will rely on in the minutes after sustaining an injury.

In soccer, junior club Belvoir leads the way with no fewer than five qualified trainers attending matches on Saturday mornings.

Barry Rumble, who has been kept busy with injury-hit University of Canberra this season, says the trainer bridges the gap between general first-aid and the specialist service given by a qualified physiotherapist.

"We have taken courses which help us to recognise and treat the common sporting injuries," he said. "We take care of the minor knocks and direct the more serious ones towards doctors or physiotherapists."

He said there are two

levels to the sports trainers' certificate. "In the first you look at the general duties of a trainer, such as strapping and the initiation of treatment. The second builds on that and includes new elements such as fitness testing."

Qualification courses are run through Reid TAFE and are under the auspices of the Australian Sports Medicine Federation.

Further information can be obtained through the ACT branch's secretary, Pat Somerville, on 253 3327.

★THE ACT Primary Schools girls team to play in an inter-district carnival in Sydney from August 22 to 25 is: Pete Simotias (Wetangera), Alena Sar (St Vincent's), Anne Marie Cook (Flynn), Cassie Saywell, Amy Wilson (Miles Franklin), Daniel Ralston (Maribyrnong), Sarah Castell (Farrer), Tracey Donohoe, Alicia Dobrobo (Monash), Monika Fiorillo (Hughes), Dior Foxhill (Girrawang), Carmina Mendoza (Ararawang), Amy Taylor (Mountain Neighbour), Michelle Tiffin (Chapman). Coach Steven Hayes; manager Carol Hayes.

Advertising COACHES PLAYERS WANTED
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AROUND THE NATION



No new imports for Eagles

BY FRANK SCIOLINA

NSL cup holders
Parramatta Melita have shelved all plans of importing two experienced internationals from Malta and will instead concentrate on the local market to rebuild their team for the new season.

Club president Sam Vella and his committee had devoted a lot of time and effort in their bid to attract 30-year-old defender Alex Azzopardi from current league champions Hamrun Spartans and 28-year-old midfielder John Buttigieg from English third division club Brentford but in the end were forced to suspend all negotiations.

"The financial demands involved were far too great" a disappointed Vella admitted last week. "We tried everything and explored every possible avenue, the simple fact of the matter is that our club just cannot afford them".

It's understood that Hamrun Spartans wanted huge fees just to let Azzopardi go to Melita on loan for one season — "The sort of money which will enable us to buy a quality player outright" Vella explained. "As for Buttigieg, he's been given a free transfer by Brentford but his personal demands were totally out of our reach".

The Eagles have seen last year's successful squad almost decimated by the loss of up to eight players, leaving coach Raul Blanco with no other option but to embark on a rebuilding program.

"There's a number of players being considered" Blanco said before he departed with the Joeys for the Under 17 World Cup in Italy.

"A lot will depend on what happens with Greg Brown. Personally, I would love him to stay but I can understand the club's position. If Brown does end up going, we will at least have the funds available to buy a couple of quality players".



JAREK NOWICKI

One of Blanco's highest priorities will be to find a replacement for the retired Washington Gonzalez, a task he admits will be a mighty difficult one. "How do you replace a player of Washington's ability and experience?" Blanco asks. "There's simply nobody available who's in that class. Plugging that huge gap is going to be almost impossible".

Not that it's all doom and gloom for the ambitious Eagles. The return of talented defender Greg Dickson from his year long absence with a bad knee injury will certainly be a welcome bonus to the side. Dickson is training well with the under 17s and is keen as mustard to reclaim his spot in the Olympic Games squad.

"He's like a new signing for us as he was out for virtually the whole of last season," Blanco points out, "and don't forget that there is still a lot of talent at the club."

The selection of Andrew Callanan and Aytek Genc in the Socceroo squad will give them a newly found self confidence and I'm certain that they will respond accor-

dingly. Then there's that little midfield dynamo Hugo Gimenez and the skillful Jarek Nowicki. I also expect big things from talented youth team players Jason Falzon and striker Aldo Marinich who will be given their chance to force their way into the side".

But perhaps the most pleasant surprise for Blanco is the tremendous attitude and ever increasing maturity of the enigmatic Marshall Soper.

Marshall is doing very well in Malaysia where he is currently the second division leading goalscorer. Blanco points out "He is thoroughly enjoying playing soccer full-time and has taken the trouble to phone twice asking about our preparation for the new season. I'm highly impressed by his total professionalism".

The Eagles have already taken the first steps towards replacing some of their losses with the signing of former Apia midfielder Klaus Okon and striker Osvaldo El Ali from St George.

"Okon has never been given an opportunity to fully reach his potential" Blanco believes.

"while El Ali will be much better suited to the South American style at Melita than he was with the Saints".

The first big test for Blanco's new-look side will come in their Charity Shield clash with champions South Melbourne a week before the NSL kicks off.

"Our aim must obviously be to further improve on the success we had last year" Blanco remarked. "People now expect us to do well but unless we adequately replace our losses it will be extremely difficult.

"Wholesale changes must produce an effect on a team's balance and understanding. Rebuilding a side always needs plenty of time and that's the challenge we are all looking forward to at Melita".

The sparkling brand of flowing football displayed by the Eagles was one of the league's highlights last season and no matter how the side might be reshaped, fans can be certain that Blanco will do everything in his power to ensure that the high standards which have been set will be maintained.

BY GREG BLAKE

SEAN Keogh, the largely unsung hero of Sunshine George Cross' brave battle against relegation, is keen to get another crack at the NSL.

While the exploits of Sunshine's young Socceros, and the club's big money transfer dealings with the likes of Hasler, Kindtner, Muscat, the Foster brothers and Mori have dominated headlines, Keogh, so often the backbone of Sunshine for the past five years, has been ignored.

Which is not in itself unusual, as Keogh, despite totting up in excess of 150 NSL games with Juventus and

Georgie, has rarely hogged the spotlight.

But he is keen and available to spring into NSL action at a moment's notice should he get the chance.

The 29 year-old, whose Sunshine contract expired at the end of the last NSL campaign, is disappointed that recent transfer speculation amounted to just that.

Brunswick Juventus expressed interest and South Melbourne considered him as a back-up to Bruce MacLaren, but, as yet, nothing.

"I'm really keen to stay involved at NSL level", says Keogh.

"If a club is eager to take me as a back-up I'd certainly be happy to take my

chances.

"Unfortunately, there aren't that many clubs left (in Melbourne) but I've been more than happy to travel in the past, with both Sunshine and Juventus".

Sunshine, which goes back into training early in August in preparation for Victorian Dockerty Cup commitments, is keen to retain as many of its 1990-91 players as possible.

But Keogh, rated as Victoria's top custodian two seasons ago, has been transfer listed by the club for \$15,000.

"But the club has been very good and said that figure is certainly negotiable", Keogh explained.

"All I want is the chance to maintain an NSL career".

Tassie dazzler

BY WALTER PLESS

Devonport City striker, Tom McGinn, has performed creditably this season considering he has not played soccer for the past five years.

The 23-year-old Scotsman is Devonport's leading scorer and ranks third overall in the State League, having notched 15 goals so far, nine of them in the league.

McGinn was a youth player with Scottish club Kilmarnock when he was 15 years of age and he even toured the United States of America with them at that time.

When he was 17, he received a six-month suspension — for a 'minor offence', as he prefers to describe it — and decided to give the game away and move to London.

It was there that he met a girl from Devonport and that is how he came to settle in Tasmania and take up soccer again with

Devonport City this season, after arriving earlier this year.

"This is my first year back and things are starting to come good for me," McGinn said. "I will definitely be staying here because I think it's great and I'm enjoying it."

Devonport is currently second-last in the State League, but McGinn believes there is potential at the club which should see its fortunes improve soon.

"I think we've been unlucky," he said. "We've had a few bad games, but we've really come on well in the last four or five weeks."

"It's a great set-up at Devonport. The coaching is great and the facilities are excellent."

"We've got a few youngsters coming on, boys who could still be in the under-17s, and they're already playing in the State League."

"It shows the club is intent on bringing a bit of youth in addition to the experienced players that

are already there. "Hopefully, we'll have a good run in the Statewide Cup and we'll be back next season and challenging for the league title."

McGinn, at 168cm, is one of the smaller strikers in the State League, but he does not regard his lack of height as a handicap.

"It's not important how tall you are, as long as you can read the game and get away from people," he said.

"Out of every hundred goals scored, only about five, maybe even less, are scored in the air."

"I've always been a striker and it's my favourite position and I'd certainly like to win the Campbell Street Newsagency Top Goalscorer Award this season."

"We'll see how it goes, but obviously, I can't score goals without the rest of the team putting the effort in."

"Scoring goals is my job and that's what I'm there for and that's what I'll try and keep doing."

JUNIOR JOTTINGS

Country cousins make it!

BY
ROBERT WHEATLEY

FOR the first time in the history of junior soccer in NSW, the 1991 National Talent Identification Tournaments will contain a team representing NSW country.

The tournaments are the pinnacle of achievement for young players with the Under 12s being conducted in late September in Cairns, the Under 14s in Canberra and the Under 15s held in Adelaide, both run from the 28th September until the 6th October.

Previous NSW teams were selected from nominations and invitations from Youth League teams together with country trialists from the Branch Championships to form a united

NSW side. Country players who failed to gain selection in previous NSW teams were then lost from the representative scene.

Country players are still initially first choice for selection in the NSW side but a lifeline has been extended to those with abundant talent who could not force their way into the No.1 side.

The results of this year's tournaments will be fascinating and will help to gauge the effectiveness of country teams and their progress as they compete against all other states in Australia.

It is no secret that National Coach Eddie Thomson and, more importantly at this stage of the boys' careers, Les Scheinflug and Raul Blanco — the Australian youth teams' dynamic duo of coaches — use the Talent

Identification Tournament as important steps in preparing the U17 and U20 national team squads. All players in the three age groups will be aspiring to emulate the feats of the 1991 Australian Under-20s who served the country

so well and so successfully in Portugal only last month.

Country players and officials have made enormous sacrifices to ensure that their players are well prepared for this important step in their development.

Championships at Branch Level and training camps have been the main forms of identification together with training camps to fine tune the squads. While some selected players live in major regional centres, others have been plucked from obscurity and live in more remote parts of the state. The list of country players and their clubs illustrate the point.

COUNTRY PLAYERS

UNDER 13

N	B	T
Z. Alwan	W	Condobolin
S. Clarke	N	Kempey
D. Edwards	N	Tanilba Bay
M. Fernandez	N	Aistonville
S. Green	N	Grafton
N. Halbert	N	East Maitland
C. Ison	S	Batemans Bay
S. Knight	N	Point Clare
D. North	W	Dubbo
D. Partington	N	Weston
S. Pnor	N	Sth Grafton
G. Sheldrick	N	Singleton
A. Wauchope	N	Wamberal
S. Wenzel	W	Dubbo
B. Wieczerek	N	Maryland
S. Wilson	N	Goonellabah

TRAIN ON

C. Milne	N	Umina
M. Murphy	N	Sth Grafton

UNDER 14

N	B	T
A. Flitcock	N	Goonellabah
K. Bosenberg	N	Terrigal
D. Rosewarne	W	Lithgow
T. Heutt	N	Wollongbar
C. Scarlett	N	Lisarow
D. Hill	R	Griffith
C. Taylor	N	Macquarie Hills
B. Lovre	N	Empire Bay
S. Dixon	W	Cudal
C. Coneray	N	Redhead
D. Smith	N	Goonellabah
S. Serafin	R	Griffith
B. Keevers	N	Goonellabah
A. Alvos	N	Lismore
W. Sewell	R	Griffith
A. Taylor	N	Charlestown

TRAIN ON

J. Skalij	W	Orange
D. Langford-Smith	N	Orange

UNDER 15

N	B	T
W. Johns	N	Nords Whan
S. Bush	N	Garden Subs
T. Williams	N	Belmont Nth
G. Blyth	N	Valentine
C. Jeffries	N	Edgeworth
J. McDermott	N	Caves Beach
C. Phelps	N	Grafton
W. Fitzgerald	S	Goulburn
M. Ross	S	Woolamia
B. Brodie	S	Nowra
B. Goodman	S	Nth Nowra
J. Ramsden	S	Hilltop
S. Sacco	R	Myrtleford
C. Modena	R	Griffith
C. Wever	R	Nth Albury
T. Nagle	R	Wodonga

TRAIN ON

M. Marwick	W	Bathurst
A. Racconello	R	Yeuda

Women's squads

The Australian Women's Soccer Association national Junior (U16) and Youth (U19) squads for 1991/92 were selected during National Underage Championships in Woy Woy in July.

The Junior squad will have a development camp at the Australian Institute of Sport from 28th September to 4th October. The Youth squad will train at the AIS prior to a three match Test Series against New Zealand in Melbourne on 4, 6 and 8th of September. This series will be sponsored by Diabetes Australia and marks the second challenge in the Trans Tasman competition.

AWSA National Junior Squad 1991/92

SQLD: Jacqui Page, Helen Pothecary, Louise McMurtrie, Treina Youngblut, Carinne Curtey, Bryony Duus.

NSW Belinda Pietras, Heloise Gubb, Megan Clayton, Michelle Watson, Megan Cotton, Kristen Spinner.

SA Kristy Moore, Kristy Swaffer, Desi Kontos.

ACT Kirstie Rayner, Joanne Braham, Marsha Son.

TAS Naomi Denne NSW Jenne Steel.

AWSA National Youth Squad 1991/92

SQLD: Zoe Smith, Tammy Sprott, Claire Nichols, Mia Thompson, Kim Revell.

NSW Amanda Patterson, Ourania Amvrazi, Jackie Hadden, Lisa Turnbull, Jane Hornsby, Kaye Yarden, Tracy Weston.

SA Mara Kreismanis, Sara Griffiths.

ACT Angie Bean, Amanda Butler.

TAS Sarah Fitzgerald, Monique Brumby.

NNSW Tracy Chapman, Samantha Dillon.

VIC Cathy Minniti, Natalie Syros.



COMMONWEALTH BANK SHIELD

THE North Coast regional final of the Commonwealth Bank Shield saw South Grafton successfully defend their title from last year by beating Richmond River in a most exciting match.

Sweeper and captain Joanne Powell scored the only goal after 25 minutes of play after great solo run. Pouncing on the ball on halfway, she took it towards the right side of the goal, where she noticed the keeper off her line.

A great 25 metre lob carried the keeper and nestled in the top left hand corner of the net.

South Grafton retained the 1-0 advantage at the break and proceeded to dominate play in the second half. Richmond River were continually on the defensive during most of the second period of play but many South Grafton attacking sorties went astray and 1-0 remained the score at full time.

Joanne Powell was involved in everything and was addressed to:

THE SECRETARY
S.S.J.S.F.A.
P.O.BOX 180
GYMEA NSW 2227

Applications close 27th August, 1991.

judged player of the match. Others to shine for South Grafton were central defender Julia Page and left winger Nadine Hoirtz, whilst for Richmond River Rachel Taylor never stopped trying.

Joanne Powell and Tania Doyle (South Grafton) and Rachel Taylor (Richmond River) were all members of the North Coast Team, which played so well at the recent Inter-Regional Championships at Parklea and finished as runners-up to the strong Hunter side.

Joanne and Rachel are also noteworthy as two of the very few girls, who have represented their schools in a boys' competition — the Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup and both acquitted themselves admirably against the boys in the games they played.

South Grafton now are through to the last sixteen in the Commonwealth Bank Shield and will play the winner of the North West Region. The girls are hoping to emulate their deeds of last year and at least reach the quarter finals.

SUTHERLAND SHIRE JUNIOR SOCCER FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

REPRESENTATIVE COACHES

Under 11 & Under 12 Junior League
U13, U14, U15 & U17 Youth League

Applications are invited in writing stating qualifications and experience.

Addressed to:

THE SECRETARY

S.S.J.S.F.A.

P.O.BOX 180

GYMEA NSW 2227

Applications close 27th August, 1991.

Argentina aces were the trumps

ARGENTINA, playing in a major competition without Diego Maradona for the first time in nine years, won its first Copa America, since 1959, last week, in Santiago, Chile.

A 2-1 victory over Colombia, secured by a pair of first-half goals scored 10 minutes apart by Diego Simeone and Gabriel Batistuta, followed Brazil's earlier 2-0 victory over host nation Chile, which required Argentina to beat Colombia for the title.

Brazil's victory gave the defending champion four points and would have given it the title on goal difference had Argentina and Colombia drawn.

But Argentina scored early and continued its offensive attack throughout to win its 13th South American major championship at nations level.

Brazil finished second with Chile third and Colombia fourth in the ten nation biennial championship.

Despite the absence of Maradona, who led his

country to a World Cup title in 1986 but is serving a 15 month suspension from the sport, Argentina scored a tournament high 16 goals through the three weeks, led by Boca Juniors striker Gabriel Batistuta with six goals.

Argentina finished the tournament unbeaten with six wins and one draw record.

Fielding only three World Cup players, Argentina played rapid offensive football and showed they can play well without Diego Maradona.

Powered in midfield by Leonardo Rodriguez, Argentina pounded Colombia in the first half with attacks by star striker Claudio Caniggia and Gabriel Batistuta, the tournament's top scorer with six goals.

Argentine midfielder Diego Simeone headed in the first goal for the champions in the 10th minute from a centre by left-wing Basualdo, who received a pass from Rodriguez, the squad's outstanding new player.

A cross by Rodriguez sent Batistuta clear into the area and the long haired striker beat flam-

boyant Colombian goalkeeper Rene Higuita with a powerful low kick for Argentina's second goal in the 19th

Argentina settled back in the second half and Colombia took the initiative after two changes, Bernardo Redin for Rincon and Valenciano for Albeiro Usuraga, injected life into their attack.

A pass by Redin allowed De Avila to score from the edge of the area in the 69th.

After the Colombian goal, the match became dramatic with Colombia putting pressure on the Argentine defence until the final whistle.

A draw would have made Brazil champions on goal difference.

Brazil lost to Argentina in the preliminary round and coach Paulo Roberto Falcao, a 1982 World Cup semi-finalist, has come under pressure to resign after his squad's poor performance in its first official tournament.

ARGENTINA: Goycochea, Basualdo, Vazquez, Ruggieri, Altamirano, Franco, Astrada, Simeone, Rodriguez (Giunta), Caniggia, Batistuta.

COLOMBIA: Higuita, Cabrera, Escobar, Perea, Osorio, Alvarez, Pimentel, Rincon (Redin), Valenciano, De Avila, Usuraga (Valenciano).

REFEREE: Juan Francisco Escobar (Paraguay).

Final table

Argentina	3	2	1	0	5	3	5
Brazil	3	2	0	1	6	3	4
Chile	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
Colombia	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

Argentina's campaign

First phase

Argentina 3 Venezuela 0
Goals: Batistuta 2 and Caniggia
Argentina 1 Chile 0
Goal: Batistuta
Argentina 4 Paraguay 1
Goals: Batistuta, Simeone, Astrada, Caniggia
Argentina 3 Peru 2
Goals: Latorre, Cravietto, C. Garcia.

Final phase

Argentina 3 Brazil 2
Goals: Franco 2, Batistuta
Argentina 0 Chile 0
Argentina 2 Colombia 1
Goals: Simeone, Batistuta

TITLES

Country	Amount
Uruguay	13
Argentina	13
Brazil	4
Paraguay	2
Peru	2
Bolivia	1
Chile	—
Colombia	—
Ecuador	—
Venezuela	—

REFeree: Oscar Ortuño (Bolivia).



Argentina in control against Paraguay

Rewards are enormous

Gabriel Batistuta and Sergio Goycochea, two members of the Argentine team that won the Copa America have secured contracts to play for European clubs.

Batistuta, a striker from Boca Juniors club who was the leading goal scorer in the Copa America tournament, signed

a contract worth 5.1 million to play for Italian club Fiorentina.

The 22 year old Batistuta will continue to play for Boca until he is transferred to the Italian club in June 1992.

"It is a great deal. Boca gets 2.6 million dollars and he will play for us for another season," Anto-

nio Alegre, the Boca Juniors President said.

Veteran Argentine World Cup goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea 27, said he will play for French Second Division club Brest, but did not disclose the details of the deal.

Goycochea, who was

goalkeeper for the Argentine squad that lost the World Cup to West Germany, is currently with Argentine Racing Club.

He had previously played for River Plate of Argentina and for Colombia's Millonarios.

Libertadores winners, Colo Colo of Chile started negotiations with Argentine Club San Lorenzo, to buy its midfielder Leonardo Rodriguez, one of the best players of the last Copa America. But he has now joined Marseille of France.

Another player who's going to Europe is Dario Franco. The Argentine midfielder will play for Spanish club Zaragoza.

COPA AMERICA HISTORY

Year: 1916 Venue: Argentina Champion: Uruguay Runner-up: Argentina
Year: 1917 Venue: Uruguay Champion: Uruguay Runner-up: Argentina
Year: 1919 Venue: Brazil Champion: Brazil Runner-up: Uruguay
Year: 1920 Venue: Chile Champion: Uruguay Runner-up: Argentina
Year: 1921 Venue: Argentina Champion: Argentina Runner-up: Brazil
Year: 1922 Venue: Brazil Champion: Brazil Runner-up: Paraguay
Year: 1923 Venue: Uruguay Champion: Uruguay Runner-up: Argentina
Year: 1924 Venue: Uruguay Champion: Uruguay Runner-up: Argentina
Year: 1925 Venue: Argentina Champion: Argentina Runner-up: Brazil
Year: 1926 Venue: Chile Champion: Uruguay Runner-up: Argentina
Year: 1927 Venue: Peru Champion: Argentina Runner-up: Uruguay
Year: 1929 Venue: Argentina Champion: Argentina Runner-up: Paraguay
Year: 1935 Venue: Peru Champion: Uruguay Runner-up: Argentina
Year: 1937 Venue: Argentina Champion: Argentina Runner-up: Brazil
Year: 1938 Venue: Peru Champion: Peru Runner-up: Uruguay
Year: 1941 Venue: Chile Champion: Argentina Runner-up: Uruguay
Year: 1942 Venue: Uruguay Champion: Uruguay Runner-up: Argentina
Year: 1945 Venue: Chile Champion: Argentina Runner-up: Brazil
Year: 1946 Venue: Argentina Champion: Argentina Runner-up: Brazil
Year: 1947 Venue: Ecuador Champion: Argentina Runner-up: Paraguay
Year: 1949 Venue: Brazil Champion: Brazil Runner-up: Paraguay
Year: 1953 Venue: Peru Champion: Paraguay Runner-up: Brazil
Year: 1955 Venue: Chile Champion: Argentina Runner-up: Chile
Year: 1956 Venue: Uruguay Champion: Uruguay Runner-up: Chile
Year: 1957 Venue: Peru Champion: Argentina Runner-up: Brazil
Year: 1959 Venue: Argentina Champion: Argentina Runner-up: Brazil
Year: 1959 (Extra) Venue: Ecuador Champion: Uruguay Runner-up: Argentina
Year: 1963 Venue: Bolivia Champion: Bolivia Runner-up: Paraguay
Year: 1967 Venue: Uruguay Champion: Uruguay Runner-up: Argentina
Year: 1975 Venue: South America Champion: Peru Runner-up: Colombia
Year: 1979 Venue: South America Champion: Paraguay Runner-up: Chile
Year: 1983 Venue: South America Champion: Uruguay Runner-up: Brazil
Year: 1987 Venue: Argentina Champion: Uruguay Runner-up: Chile
Year: 1989 Venue: Brazil Champion: Brazil Runner-up: Uruguay
Year: 1991 Venue: Chile Champion: Argentina Runner-up: Brazil

Boca up!

Meanwhile in Argentina, Boca Juniors defeated Argentinos Juniors 2-0 to qualify for the Pre-Libertadores Cup league with arch rivals River Plate Lorenzo and Racing. Boca Juniors will face Racing and San Lorenzo in the first round.

The winner will join new Argentine champion Newell's Old Boys to represent Argentina in the 1992 Libertadores Cup.

Newell's beat Boca Juniors in the Argentine Soccer League final.

Meola picks the right one!



TONY MEOLA in action.

VERY TAXING

DENVER's insatiable desire to stage matches in the 1994 World Cup continues to be frustrated.

First, the city's World Cup organisers may be left without a stadium in which to play the three first-round matches they are chasing.

Denver's proposal to the US Soccer Federation's World Cup venue committee offered Mile High Stadium, but that arena may be taken over by the new national league baseball club, the Colorado Rockies, if Coors' Stadium isn't completed by 1994.

The Denver City Council has already declared baseball will get Mile High before soccer does.

Assuming the Rockies do have their own stadium, leaving Mile High free for World Cup soccer, the Denver group bidding for the soccer extravaganza then has to come to a very taxing problem that could cost it \$400,000.

World Cup USA 1994 demands that the tax applied to tickets to World Cup matches be no more than five per cent. In Denver, the tax on tickets to sporting events is 10 per cent and city officials say they will not lower it, not even for a world event.

That five per cent difference will have to be picked up by the local soccer organisers who are now trimming \$400,000 off their budget.

The US Soccer Federation has started calculating a new budget for the 1994 World Cup and according to Charles Cale, the chief executive officer of World Cup USA 1994, the month-long, 52-match event will cost \$260-\$330 million.

To increase revenue, the USSF rushed to Washington DC this week to ask the US government to approve a plan to mint commemorative coins for the 1994 World Cup.

USSF President Alan Rothenburg said: "The coins would generate the second-largest source of revenue —

\$65 million — for the 1994 World Cup."

The World Cup USA 1994 commemorative coin act calls for three coins — a \$5 gold piece, a \$1 silver piece and a 50-cent piece.

"We're optimistic," said Rothenburg of the prospects of the act getting through congress. "We don't know of any opposition except those generally opposed to commemorative coins and those who want 50 per cent of the profits to go toward the budget deficit."

The act needs 218 congressmen to support its passage to law. So far 230 have agreed to sponsor the bill and put it before president George Bush for final approval in October.

The USSF would make profits on the surcharges on the coins — \$US35 on the \$5 coin, \$US7 on the \$1 coin and \$1 on the 50-cent coin.

"Our goal is to stage the best World Cup ever," said Rothenburg. "How well we do will depend on how much money we have."

Money, money, money...

IMAGINE growing up a quick train trip away from New York City and the New York Yankees decide they want you to play baseball?

Dream come true for any American kid, right? Multi-million dollar contract, fame and all the other spoils of being part of America's national sport.

Who wouldn't jump at the dream if it ever came true?

Tony Meola. Yep, the 22-year-old New Jersey native who kept Italy to just one goal in the Olympic Stadium in Rome during last year's World Cup chose soccer ahead of baseball.

When he was playing soccer and baseball at Kearny High School in New Jersey, Meola earned all-America honors and was drafted by the New York Yankees as a center fielder.

Rather than wear the red-white-and-blue of America, Meola could today be in the fancy blue pin stripes of the Yankees out in the Bronx where millionaires turn up every day to play in the toughest, poorest Borough of the big city.

But in 1987, Meola decided he wanted an education rather than risk his life in baseball where so many talented young men have been deluded by riches only to be turned into paupers by one injury. He took up a soccer scholarship at the University of Virginia, which won the American National College title in 1989 with Meola in goal.

He was named the player of the tournament at the Gold Cup in Los Angeles where he allowed only three goals in 10 days while guiding the US to its first major triumph.

Suddenly, six Mexican clubs are offering Meola contracts but Meola may still try his luck in Europe. He is a much better player now and who does he credit with his renewed confidence?

Bora Milutinovic, of course. The Yugoslav who worked miracles with Mexico and Costa Rica at the past two World Cups has since

**FROM OUR MAN
IN NEW YORK
MICHELANGELO
RUCCI**

Now don't start thinking that Meola is starving by choosing soccer ahead of baseball.

He drives a \$40,000 black Porsche and commands \$430,000 a year in his contracts with the US Soccer Federation and endorsements of Mitre and Reusch Soccer gear.

That should shatter some illusions about soccer in America!

Meola left Italy last summer after his dream to earn a place in an Italian First or Second Division club were cast aside, but his career has not fallen apart since.

He was named the player of the tournament at the Gold Cup in Los Angeles where he allowed only three goals in 10 days while guiding the US to its first major triumph.

Then we qualify for the 1990 World Cup and suddenly the media pops out of the woodwork. For myself, my family, choosing soccer has been a right decision.

"Do you know what it's like to sit and listen to the national anthem and know that you're representing the US? Just wait until the World Cup comes here in 1994. You are going to see something bigger than you've ever seen."

Meola was bigger

than anything the soccer coaches at Virginia had seen when he turned up at the college in 1987.

"You live in an Italian house and eat," said Meola, who was thrust into the goal because his coaches thought he was too heavy to do too much running.

That Italian cooking turned this Meola boy into quite a muscular guy who's not afraid to thrust his well-defined body into an oncoming striker. He's had his nose broken four times for the trouble.

"I put a little scare in my coaches sometimes," Meola says. "But I believe in doing what got me here. It wouldn't be fun for me if I hide under that goalpost."

Vincent Meola, his proud father, was hiding among 80,000 boisterous Italians in Rome's Olympic Stadium last year when he would have been the only Italian native not praying for the Azzurri to whitewash the Americans.

"I'm embarrassed to say this, but I didn't want them to know I was the father of the US goalkeeper," said Mr Meola, whose cover was blown by a US television crew.

"We're going to score 50 goals against your son," shouted one of the romans.

Mr Meola just kept quiet until the last minute when the Italians had managed to rouse up just a 1-0 lead. "What happened to the scoreboard?" He shouted to his Italian critic. "It's supposed to be 50-0. What happened?"



JOHN HARKES: another American come good.

PAUL VAN HIMST HAS BELGIAN CREDENTIALS

ON May 11, the Executive Committee of the Belgian Football Federation elected Paul van Himst as manager of the Belgian national team.

He succeeds Guy Thys, who, among other things in his successful 15-year career, took the Belgian national team to the final of the 1980 European Championship as well as helping them to achieve fourth place at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

Paul van Himst was born on October 2, 1943 and represented his country at senior level a total of 81 times.

He is one of only three footballers to have received the coveted Sports Merit Trophy as an individual, together with Michel Preud'homme and Jan Ceulemans.

Golden Shoe

He was also presented with the Golden Shoe, the greatest football honour in Belgium, on four occasions (1960, 1961, 1965 and 1974).

During his playing career with Anderlecht, the team won the Belgian championship eight times, as well as winning the national Cup four times.

He was also the league's top scorer in three different seasons and scored a grand total of 235 goals in his long and distinguished career.

Van Himst first play-



The changing of the guard as former coach Guy Thys (left) welcomes Paul van Himst to his new post.

ed at the age of 16 for Anderlecht during a match at Beringen.

He scored his first official goal at a home game on December 17, 1959.

In the sixties, the brilliant Anderlecht team was built around this exceptional technician with a thunderous shot and remarkable ball skill.

He went on to play for RWD Molenbeek and Endrecht Also.

Van Himst was selected for the national team at the age of 17 in Stockholm in 1960, and

ended his international career at a match in Leipzig in 1974, when he injured his knee.

He scored 31 goals for the national team, which is a record in itself, and was also a member of the World Selection team in 1964.

Together with Pele and many other football greats, he starred in the film 'Escape to Victory'.

Anderlecht

He succeeded Tomislav Ilic now at Marsselle, as manager of Anderlecht during the 1982-83 season.

His team won the UEFA Cup against Benfica in 1983 (something he had been unable to achieve as a player, as he was a member of the defeated Anderlecht side in the first European final which the team played against Arsenal in 1970).

One year later, he was on the losing side again, when the team lost in the UEFA Cup final to Tottenham on penalties.

In 1985, he led his team to victory in the Belgian Championship, but was replaced by Arie Haan in the middle of the following season.

All the Belgian sportsmen and fans are thrilled at Paul van Himst's nomination, in particular Georges Grun and Enzo Scifo, whose careers were launched at Astdn Park while van Himst was managing the Anderlecht team.

Van Himst takes over the national team at a low point as Belgium have forfeited any chance of qualifying for Euro-92.

But he is determined to take the "Red Devils" to the USA in 1994.

ALL OVER AFTER 42 YEARS

NOW it is all over for the Oberliga after nearly 42 years of "socialist football".

What began on September 3, 1949 is now history, as are the activities of the 46 clubs who played at top level east of the Elbe, the actions of the players in 8,046 championship games, and the views of almost 87 million spectators who saw 24,200 goals.

For most of those 42 years the fans flocked to soccer, pre-1949 the favourite sport in and around Saxony but one which was disgracefully manipulated and woefully disadvantaged by the Communists.

Nevertheless soccer still enjoyed a popularity even extreme political dogmatism could not kill, and there were successes along a stony way — sixth place at the World Cup in 1974, Olympic gold two years later, Magdeburg's Cup-Winners' Cup win in 1974, and Jena and Lok Leipzig each losing finals by the odd goal.

Now the fans await the arrival of the Bundesliga in Rostock and Dresden.

PORTO COACH



CARLOS Alberto Silva, the coach who led Brazil when they won the 1988 Bicentennial Gold Cup in Australia, is the new coach of crack Portuguese side FC Porto.

Silva, who signed a two-year contract said to be worth \$500,000 a year, was somewhat of a surprise choice as it was believed that another Brazilian, with almost the same name — Carlos Alberto Parreira — had the job.

Parreira was also in Australia in 1988, as coach of Saudi Arabia, and last year he coached the United Arab Emirates at Italia '90.

The position at Porto, last season's Portuguese Cup winners, was vacant when Artur Jorge moved to take over Paris St Germain in France.

— LOU GAUTIER



New Milanese Boban with the famous shirt.

Berlusconi grabs Boban

Dynamo Zagreb superstar Zvonimir Boban, apparently, is not the mystery player Marseille president Bernard Tapie recently claimed to have signed.

The millionaire businessman-turn-Socialist-politician told the mass-circulation sports daily "L'Equipe" daily that he had signed a

pre-contract with a top European player who would join the club in 1993 and become the "best player in Europe by the turn of the century", to

quote his own words.

The newspaper has surmised he was referring to Boban, but the Croatian midfielder turned up in Milan where AC Milan president Silvio Berlusconi introduced him as their player.

Boban, however, may be too young to play abroad.

The only way he may beat the age restriction of the Yugoslav Federation is if Croatia forms its own football body, which is on the cards.

— LOU GAUTIER

BRING GARY MACKAY BACK

IS there another Gary Mackay out there who can get the Republic of Ireland to another European Championship finals?

Mackay of Hearts went on as a substitute for Scotland against Bulgaria in Sofia four years ago, and his goal ensured the Republic their place at the Euro '88 finals.

How Jack Charlton and the Irish fans long for something similar!

Charlton has said that the Irish can win in Poland and Turkey, but it may not be enough, with England now in the driver's seat.

Meanwhile, the list of players who are due testimonials from the FAI is growing rapidly.

Those already qualified are Kevin Moran, David O'Leary, Chris Houghton, Mick McCarthy and Jackie Bonner.

The FAI may also help Jim Beglin, forced to retire after 15 caps.

Early summer moves in management in the League of Ireland . . .

Pat Devlin is the new manager of Athlone Town, after acting as technical director at Shamrock Rovers last season . . . Noel Synott, another former Rovers employee, takes over as manager of Kilkenny City . . . Bill Bagster has been appointed manager of Monaghan United.

(—from WORLD SOCCER)

DELAY!

THE Yugoslav soccer season, due to open on August 3, is likely to start late because of political unrest in the country.

The sport of skiing is also affected with Croatia and Slovenia, the two northwestern republics which usually provide most of Yugoslavia's top skiers, deciding to operate outside the national organisation.

The final decision about the soccer season was expected at the Yugoslav Soccer Federation (YSF) presidency meeting on July 26.



ENZO SCIFO: the crack Belgian midfielder, voted his country's International Player of the Year, is looking ahead to his season in Italy with Torino after three big years in France.

GULF CUP IS OFF!

SIX Arab states have postponed the Gulf Cup tournament while they try to recover the trophy, which was stolen by Iraq after it conquered cup winners Kuwait.

The Gulf news agency (GNA) said repre-

sentatives of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates decided to delay the 1992 tournament — due to have started next February — for a further seven months.

The six also agreed at a meeting in Doha, Qatar, yesterday to seek help from international and Arab football associations to force Iraq to return the cup, looted during its seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

SKUHRAVY ENJOYS NEW ORDER



TOMAS SKUHRAVY

Democracy's unexpected arrival in Czechoslovakia has improved life for millions of people — including footballers.

One of them, striker Tomas Skuhrayv, has proved that his World Cup displays were no fluke.

And he attributes his improvement on the field to the advent of democracy in his homeland.

"Our revolution and subsequent free elections widened all our horizons and gave us the motivation to succeed," he says.

"The federation decided to allow younger players to try their luck abroad, and like many others I opted to emigrate for the good of my career."

"Since I joined Genoa I've found the Italian League to be the

most exciting in the world, and this is an experience that I never want to end."

An ever-improving attacking partnership with Uruguayan Carlos Aguilar has established the powerfully-built Skuhrayv as a firm favourite with Genoa supporters.

The pair finished joint top scorers with 15 goals as Genoa finished fourth and qualified for the UEFA Cup next season.

Add the talent of Stefano Erario — who made his debut for Italy last December in Cyprus — Gennaro Ruotolo, Roberto Onorati and Vincenzo Torrente, and the "Rossoblu" emerge as one of the season's big surprises.

Skuhrayv's aerial force and sheer physical presence are attributes that Genoa have exploited to the full.

But his adjustment to a new soccer life was no overnight process.

FOUR FOREIGNERS TO REIGN IN SPAIN

SPANISH First Division clubs can now sign up to four foreign players, instead of the current maximum of three.



The move was voted in by the Spanish Football Federation's general assembly.

But clubs can only play three foreigners in

one match.

Champions Barcelona announced that they would not be selling any of their three foreign players — Dutchman Ronald Koeman, Hristo Stoichkov of Bulgaria and Dane Michael Laudrup — unless they were made a huge offer.

The club released a statement in response to mounting rumours that Laudrup was to move to French champions Marseille.

The vital goal was the last-minute effort to earn Genoa a 2-2 draw in Florence, after his first seven outings for his new club had proved frustratingly barren.

Questions were being posed about president Aldo Spinelli's wisdom in spending a reported \$5 million on the doubtful basis of Skuhrayv's liberal ration of World Cup goals against the United States and Costa Rica.

Those five goals, which enabled Skuhrayv runner-up to "Toto" Schilaci in the Italia '90 scoring stakes, were an effective marketing exercise.

"I cannot deny that my World Cup success was a turning point in my life," he says.

"Without those goals I would have remained just another footballer, and would not have been able to earn my living in Italy."

"The marketing here is ruthless and to begin with I received few crosses, but all the initial problems have been overcome now. I have finally learned how to play in Italy, and know exactly what Genoa expect of me."

Coach Osvaldo Bagnoi, rarely one to in-

dulge in public praise of his players, makes an exception for Skuhrayv.

"At first he seemed to be trying too hard and I had to tell him not to drop back too often in search of the ball," says Bagnoi.

"Now Tomas largely stays in the box, and that is his ideal position. Physically he is one of the most impressive players I've ever seen."

Skuhrayv was born in the village of Prerov Nad Lubem, 30 kilometres from Prague, in September 1965.

In his childhood, advanced beyond his years in height and weight, he did well for the village schoolboy side, with lots of goals and a considerable dose of parental encouragement.

At 16 he joined the nation's most popular club, Sparta Prague, and 12 months later he had broken into the first team — helped by the Czech Federation, who granted him an exemption from the rule that nobody under 18 could play in the First Division.

He and contemporaries such as Ivan Hasek, Michael Bilek, Jan Stejskal, Vaclav Nemecek and Julius Bielik contributed greatly to Sparta's

domination of the domestic scene.

During the past four seasons, Skuhrayv scored 76 goals in 200 games.

He has been capped at youth and Under 21 level, and on 31 occasions for the full Czech team, and was second in the Czech Player of the Year ballot last term, to St Paul's Jan Kocian.

But he has not always enjoyed such status.

He often left his excellent club form behind when putting on his country's jersey, and for a time up to the Italia '90 eliminators, national manager Josef Venglos preferred Milan Luhovy.

"Skuhra" regained a place thanks to Luhovy's recurrent injury problems, and the World Cup was the making of him.

"Skuhrayv is a complete striker," said Venglos in Italy. "He has a powerful shot and is unbeatable in the air."

"I wouldn't exchange him for any other World Cup forward."

Genoa supporters would not either.

And it was little wonder that they scoffed at a recent report that Marseille . . . was considering a world record bid of \$25 million for Skuhrayv!

Around the globe

Compiled by LOU GAUTIER



► Hans-Dieter Flick, FC Koln's talented midfielder, has been lured to Fenerbahce — by the Turkish club's former German goalkeeper, Herald Schumacher.

► Former East German Thomas Doll, now in Italy with Lazio, has been voted Players' Player of the Year in Germany.

► PSV Eindhoven had knocked back an offer from Valencia of Spain for midfielder Erwin Koeman. Ailing Valencia are now coached by Dutchman Guus Hiddink.

► Kortrijk striker Laurent Ballenghen, 21, has been transferred to Germinal Ekeren — the club which surprised by clinching Belgium's final spot in the UEFA Cup by finishing fifth last season.

► Hans Dorjee, who was Bobby Robson's assistant at PSV Eindhoven, will coach Feyenoord this coming season. Feyenoord, incidentally, will have to replay the second half of the Dutch Cup final against Den Bosch on August 8. The final was stopped after 83 minutes early in June when Feyenoord fans invaded the pitch to celebrate their team's 83rd minute goal. The replay will start with Feyenoord leading 1-0 on the scoreboard.

► Cameroun's veteran World Cup goalkeeper, Thomas Nkono, is back on deck. He has come out of retirement to play for Sabadell, in the Spanish Second Division, next season.

► Red Star Belgrade, Mechelen, Chelsea and Bari are taking part in an international tournament in Sweden on August 2/4 which no local team is contesting.

► The Belgian Super Cup between champions Anderlecht and Cup winners FC Brugge will be played on August 7, in Brussels.

► Jorge Sola, the coach of Spanish First Division side Tenerife, hopes to sign two countrymen during the off-season, both Argentine internationals — midfielder Dario Franco (Newell's Old Boys) and David Bisconti (Rosario Central).

► Luis Angel Firpo are the new champions of El Salvador. The team includes two Uruguayan players and a Brazilian, and is rated the best club side in the region outside Mexico.

► Sporting Lisbon have lost star players Oceano and Carlos Xavier — to Spanish club Real Sociedad. To make up for the loss, Sporting signed Figo and Peixe, two of Portugal's Youth World Cup-winning team.

► Czechoslovakian internationals Musil and Zak, both from Spartak Hradec, have joined Portugal's First Division Penafiel.

► French international defender Jean Philippe Durand has joined Marseille from Bordeaux, demoted to the Second Division this season, to replace Bernard Pardo, who was moved to Paris St Germain.

► Camerounian goalkeeper Joseph-Antoine Bell will play for St Etienne this season. This will be Bell's fifth French club. His last three teams were Marseille, Toulon and Bordeaux.

► Veteran Paraguayan goalkeeper Jose Luis Chilavert will play in Argentina next season. He has been transferred from his Spanish club, Zaragoza, to Velez Sarsfield.

► Inter Milan have purchased Salzburg's German striker Oliver Bierhoff, who with 23 goals was second on the Austrian scoring list last season. Bierhoff, however, cannot command a first team berth alongside Inter's other three German stars, so he has been loaned out for one season to Borussia Monchengladbach.

► Georgi Slavkov, the Bulgarian international striker who played a couple of seasons for St Etienne in France and who was the top scorer in Europe six years ago, has re-signed for his Portuguese club, Chaves, for two seasons.

► Czechoslovak international midfielder Ladislav Novak is the new coach of Belgian First Division RWD Molenbeek, based in Brussels. He replaces Hugo Broos, who succeeds George Leesken at FC Brugge.

► The Italian Coaches' Federation have awarded their annual prize as best European Coach to Belgian veteran Raymond Goethals for the 1990/91 season. The 76-year-old coached Marseille to the final of the European Champions' Cup, but this coming season it's Yugoslav Tomislav Ivic, ex-Atletico Madrid, who will be at the helm of the French champions with Goethals kicked "upstairs" as "technical manager".

► Danish international fullback John Sieveback, 29, has been transferred from Saint-Etienne to another French club, Monaco.

► Dutch veteran Adri van Tiggelen, 33, has returned to Holland to play for champions PSV Eindhoven after a spell with Anderlecht in Belgium.

► Paris has applied to stage a 1992 Cup final. UEFA will decide in January if the French capital is successful in its bid to stage the Champions' or Cup-Winners' final.



Spartak Moscow star Dimitri Radchenko. The 23-year-old midfielder is reported to be on the verge of being signed by a Portuguese club, possibly Porto.

EURO-92 DRESS REHEARSAL WAS A BIG SUCCESS

THE 'Scania 100' four-country tournament, sponsored by one of the world's most prominent truck manufacturers, took place in June in Sweden's European Championship cities of Göteborg, Malmö, Norrköping and Stockholm.



The participants were the national teams of Sweden, the USSR, Denmark and Italy, to mark the firm's 100th anniversary.

The tournament at times provided some very fine football and was won by Italy against the USSR on penalties after the match had finished 1-1 at the end of extra-time, with Sweden and Denmark respectively placed third and fourth.

However, its aim was not only to provide a football show but rather to serve as a dress rehearsal for the Swedish Organising Committee of EURO 92 for the big event of June next year.

The trial was successful, according to the findings of both the UEFA Committee for the European Football Championship and the UEFA Stadium Committee, both of which

(admission) planned for 1992 was tested.

7. The tournament enabled the organisers to obtain a concrete orientation as to infrastructure, communications and transportation, hotels and lodgings.

8. Particular attention was given to problems of security.

9. Altogether over 450 media representatives from various countries covered the tournament, already giving the local organisers some experience of the media attendance to be expected.

Small is beautiful

Through its excellent organisation of the tournament, the Swedish Football Association proved that even a relatively small football nation will be in a position to run such a major event as the European Football Championship.

3. In every city the police and security services were brought in for the organisation.

4. The Swedish Post Office made their communications equipment available (telephone, fax, etc.).

5. As far as possible — this was a special tournament — the UEFA guidelines for the media were applied.

6. The ticket system

In any case it will be on a different scale compared with the 1988 finals in the Federal Republic of Germany, and the Swedes have taken 'small is beautiful' as their motto.



Franck Passi of Toulon, one of the clubs expected to struggle in the French First Division which kicked off on July 20.



Ruggiero Rizzitelli of Italy and Ivanov of the Soviet Union in the final of the Scania Cup.

German is honoured

It is stipulated in the UEFA Statutes that no country may have more than one member on the UEFA Executive Committee.

Following the recent unification of the two Germanies and the subsequent union of the two football associations, this clause directly affected Gunter Schneider, who has had to resign his place in favour of Egidius Braun (elected onto the Executive Committee at the Congress in 1988) after twelve years' service on this committee.

However, just as all of the other members of the UEFA committees from the former GDR

will complete their terms on the other committees to which they were elected, Gunter Schneider will remain as chairman of the Youth Committee.

Gunter Schneider has done more than his share for European football.

He was a member of the (no longer active) Amateur Committee from 1970 to 1976, of the Committee for the UEFA Club Competitions from 1976 to 1978; he has been Vice-



GUNTER SCHNEIDER

Organising Committee for the World Cup from 1980 to 1990 and has been a member of the Committee for the FIFA Youth Competitions since 1980. In addition, he is still active as a UEFA match delegate.

In view of his long service on the Executive Committee, Gunter Schneider was presented with a special certificate at the London meeting, together with the thanks of the Committee for the tasks he has already accomplished and will continue to fulfil for the European Football Union.



EDITED BY TOM ANDERSON

WHITESIDE'S WOE

Norm's stormin' days are over

NORMAN Whiteside, the Northern Ireland international who has a place in World Cup folklore, has been finally forced to quit the game.

Stormin' Norman, still only 26, was the scourge of the opposition for five years in his heyday at Manchester United.

But after a £750,000 move to Everton two years ago, he was sidelined with a knee injury and now Whiteside has accepted that a career which promised so much is over.

The kid from Belfast was a strapping boy wonder. United's manager at the time Ron Atkinson sensed Whiteside was a bit special and give him a first taste of senior football before he had turned 17.

Forty-one days after his 17th birthday he lined up for his country against Yugoslavia in

Spain, becoming the youngest player to appear in the World Cup finals. It is a record he still holds.

Domestic honours followed as he helped

United beat Brighton in the 1983 FA Cup Final — scoring in the 4-0 replay win and grabbing the only goal against Everton in the 1985 Final.

He had only just turned 20 but was already a recognised international star and on his way to collecting 38 caps.

Atkinson says: "Norman was what I call a big match player. He had the ability and the temperament to rise to the big occasion."

And the Villa boss believes the 'hard man' image obscured the full quality of Whiteside's play.

"I honestly feel there was a misconception about Iron Norm and all that sort of thing," says Big Ron. "Of course he was big and tough

and wasn't afraid to be in the thick of things.

"But I think that reputation overshadowed the fact that he was an extremely skilful player. He was a great passer of the ball and I think only those who actually played and worked with him appreciated just how good he was."

By the late eighties, though, injuries had clouded his career. He had two Achilles operations and relations with Alex Ferguson, United's new boss, had become strained.

Everton stepped in with a £750,000 cheque in 1989 but his career at Goodison Park never got going. Whiteside made just two appearances last season because of the knee injury and has finally made the heart-breaking decision to retire.



to be thankful for. He crammed more into eight years or so than most players do in a lifetime."

Ironically, Whiteside has indicated that he may now pursue a career in physiotherapy.

Villa buy

ASTON VILLA have plunged into the £2 million battle for Paul Stewart.

Wheeler dealer Ron Atkinson, in the process of rebuilding Villa, wants Spurs' Cup Final hero as an attacking midfield replacement for £5.5m David Platt.

Big Ron's move means increased competition for Manchester City.

Mains Road boss Peter Reid has made Stewart's return to City

his top priority and remains quietly confident of landing his target.

His hand could be strengthened by the £1m sale of winger Mark Ward to Everton.

But a knee injury to the former West Ham star has created a slight competition.

This week, Atkinson hopes to clinch the £1.5m signing of Liverpool's Steve Staunton and, possibly, a £450,000 deal for Real Sociedad's Kevin Richardson.

Robbo

BRYAN Robson has been given the go-ahead to start the new season for Manchester United.

United manager Alex Ferguson confirmed that his 34-year-old skipper will be fit for the start of the new league program in two weeks time, despite a hernia operation just seven weeks ago and another injury which has put him out of the club's tour of Norway.

Gary out

CRYSTAL PALACE have made a move for deposited £750,000-rated Sunderland skipper Gary Bennett.

Their long-standing interest has led to a firm enquiry and Sunderland are prepared to sell.

New Southampton boss Ian Branfoot has offered £500,000 for Brighton striker John Byrne. Oxford winger Paul Blissett.

KICK OFF THE SEASON 91/92

Rothmans Football Yearbook 1991/92	\$40.00
Barclays League Club Directory 1992	\$37.50
Football League Yearbook 1992	\$35.00
Football Association Yearbook 1991/92	\$16.99
Playfair Football Annual 1991/92	\$12.99
Playfair Football Non League Annual 1991/92	\$14.99
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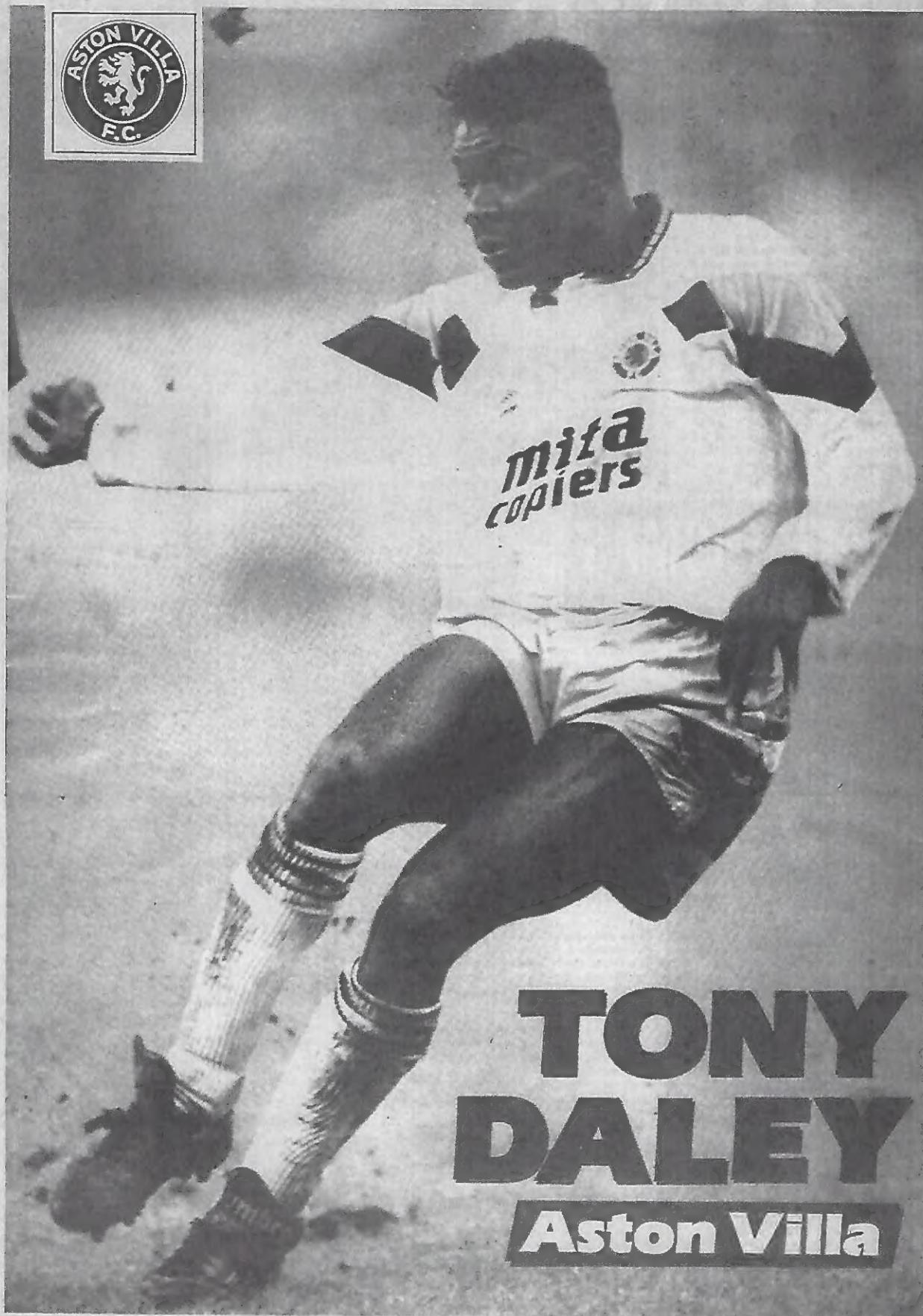
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★★★ STAR OF THE WEEK ★★★



**TONY
DALEY**
Aston Villa



Here it is — the best soccer action show of the week



HAUNTED BY

My title winner brought me two years of torment

CHAMPIONS Arsenal are the League's first European Cup representatives since the UEFA ban on English clubs five years ago.

* And George Graham's side will get a taste of the sort of opposition they're up against this season at next weekend's two-day Makita International Tournament at Highbury.

Alongside Arsenal will be Italian champions and Makita hol-

ders Sampdoria, Greek double winners Panathinaikos, plus newly-promoted West Ham.

* For Michael Thomas, it's the hope of putting his two years of torment behind him and reclaiming his place in Arsenal's midfield.

DRAW — Saturday: West Ham v Sampdoria (1.0), Arsenal v Panathinaikos (3.0). Sunday: Losers' Play-off (1.30). Final (3.30).



Defending English First Division champions Arsenal

MICHAEL THOMAS

★ EXCLUSIVE ★

MICHAEL THOMAS felt the world would open up for him with the goal that won a League Championship for Arsenal.

He was 22, capped at all levels by his country and famous far beyond

for applying the finest finishing touch ever to a title scrap.

Now, two years on, Thomas is no longer under serious consideration for an England place.

Arsenal, too, exiled him from their triumphant finale to another

championship victory last season.

And on the eve of a new campaign, he's dead-locked with manager George Graham over the size of a contract he's refusing to sign.

Thomas treasured his title-winning goal

flashed by live TV into millions of homes from Liverpool's Anfield.

He confesses now that it returns only to haunt him.

"Every time I step on the field, I feel the fans are actually EXPECTING me to score goals like that," says Thomas.

"Wherever I go, people come up to me and want to talk about it, thank me for it."

"I feel like saying 'Hey, where have I been for the last two years?'

"That goal is all I ever hear about. Don't misunderstand me, I wouldn't take it back for anything. I'd rather live without it than without it."

"But I now know what John Barnes has gone through with everyone waiting for him to score goals for England like the one he got as a youngster against Brazil so long ago."

"Before I scored that goal against Liverpool, life was just fine. I just got on with the game and enjoyed it."

Pressure

"Now I feel more pressure on myself whenever I get forward. I've let it get to me."

"The title-winning goal was one of eight I scored that season."

"I followed it up with six next time around and then three last season. Ideally I want to be scoring 12 a season."

"It's now time to put this whole thing behind me and everyone else. I want to get on with the rest of my life."

However, at Highbury next Saturday, Thomas will have a reminder of the reputation won for him abroad by his Anfield exploit.

Thomas is desperate to make Arsenal's starting line-up for the Makita tournament which also features Italian champions Sampdoria, Greek double winners Panathinaikos and West Ham.

He will once again see Gianluca Vialli, Sampdoria's brilliant leading scorer in the Italian League.

Gary's goal

GOLDEN boy Gary Lineker is on course to end his international career as England's greatest goalscorer of all time.

Bobby Charlton's long-standing record of 49 England goals is now in Lineker's sights and the former Manchester United stalwart himself is tipping the Spurs ace to overhaul his proud tally.

Now in his eighth year as an international, Lineker is likely to carry on playing at the top level for another two seasons — injuries permitting of course.

And that should give the former Leicester,

Everton and Barcelona striker enough time to put his name up in lights as an all-time England great.

With typical modesty, Lineker shrugs off talk of 'the record' and insists: "I will only start thinking about it when I'm within a goal or two of Bobby Charlton's tally."

But, while he prefers to concentrate on the present rather than the future, there can be no doubt that Lineker deserves to retire from the international scene having set a new scoring record in excess of 50 goals.

It would represent a glorious end to an England career which be-

gan back in 1984 and which has included two, four-scoring World Cup finals.

He was the tournament's top scorer with six goals in Mexico 1986 — an achievement which was rewarded with a multi-million transfer to Barcelona — and he almost emulated that feat in Italy four years later.

Apart from a traumatic European Championship in 1988, it has been goals all the way for England's most popular international footballer of the 80s.

Without him, England would have struggled to re-establish themselves as a real force in international foot-

ball — as they did in the two years which followed the dramatic demise in West Germany.

Although the Lineker trophy cabinet is relatively bare, the accolades and tributes continue to be bestowed on an immaculate professional.

After the 1990 World Cup Gentleman Gary — never booked or sent-off throughout his career — was voted the fairest player in Italy, a tribute to his genuine sportsmanship.

Since then, in the absence of Bryan Robson, he was honoured to captain his country.

A few more England goals — perhaps a European Championship triumph in Sweden in 1992 — and Bobby Charlton's record would be a suitable reward for his efforts.



Ace scorer GARY LINEKER

ABSW BEST FOR SOCCER ACTION

AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY — JULY 30, 1991

FOOTBALL — YOUTH SOCCER — MASTERS LEAGUE — INSTAGRA



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THIS GOAL

'Every time I step on the field, I feel the fans expect me to score like that'

Amazed

Thomas recalls: "We met Sampdoria in the same competition at Wembley last season.

"And at the end of the game, Vialli called across to me: 'Hey, Thomas, you and me change shirts'.

"I was amazed he knew my name and picked me out like that."

"He must have read about that goal, or seen it on TV."

Thomas has since, mislaid his international celebrity status. Just like David Rocastle,



Arsenal's Micky Thomas challenges Luton's goalkeeper

another Arsenal star to be abandoned by England.

Thomas takes Rocastle as an example in his fight to restore himself to Arsenal's midfield.

Thomas says: "I

played with Rocky for the same London kids' team. He missed nearly a whole season with Arsenal because he couldn't get in the team.

Strong

"He buckled down

and played his way back. That's what I must try to do.

"I want to play abroad one day. But Arsenal are very strong in my blood and I don't want to leave now."

"The only way I'll go is if I reach the end of my contract next summer without reaching an agreement on pay."

"I signed my last deal three years ago and haven't had an increase since. Everyone is ahead of me."

"I'm not being greedy."

"I know what I want for a long contract and Arsenal know what they want to give me."

"It's cat and mouse. I hope we get there but, if I've lasted this long, I'm not going to give in now."

"I'll just have to put it out of my mind. At least I've learned one lesson."

"Arsenal asked me to play on with bruised ankle ligaments in the early part of last year and I agreed to help them out. I played in pain for months and obviously couldn't give my best. I couldn't tackle or even kick the ball properly."

"It cost me an England place and a possible trip to the World Cup."

Mistake

"That was the biggest mistake of my life and I'll never make another like it. No-one remembers now what I did."

Thomas had to stick up for himself at home as an only boy among four sisters.

And he never lost the habit, even in an England dressing room after winning the second of his two full caps.

Thomas reveals: "I was shattered and not very happy after playing in England's 2-2 draw with Yugoslavia at Wembley."

"They had five men in midfield, we had two. I tore all over the place looking for the ball."

"Manager Bobby Robson went on TV and said that Thomas now knew what international football was all about."

"But he was wrong and I told him so in the dressing room at half time and full time."

"We were simply



GEORGE GRAHAM

out-numbered in my part of the field.

"I was chosen later in the squad to face Brazil, but Robson asked me about my ankle and I had to tell him it was dodgy."

"He put me on the bench, but I didn't play and I've never been in a squad since."

Chance

"I've got enough on my plate at Arsenal, without worrying about

that now."

"There are four of us, Rocky, David Hillier, Paul Davis and me chasing two midfield places and then there's Siggi Jonsson, when he gets fit."

"It's in my own hands, so it's up to me to produce the goods."

And Thomas will have a better chance of doing that, he feels, if nobody talks of titles and mentions . . . well, you know what.

Spurs go Euro

FA Cup winners Tottenham Hotspur are the first English league side to experiment with a European style of management.

Peter Shreeves, 50, has returned to White Hart Lane from Wat-

ford as first team coach and will be in charge of team selection in a set-up similar to the one new chief executive Terry Venables worked under during his time with Barcelona.

Venables will by no means give up his strong links with the

side, though. He and Shreeves will work closely over all transfer business, along with Doug Livermore, Shreeves' number two.

Shreeves will also continue in his part-time capacity as assistant manager to Terry Yorath with the Welsh national side.

THANK GOD FOR DEANO

I'm glad he stole my big-money tag — Pally

THE DELIGHT at Dean Saunders' record-breaking move to Liverpool wasn't confined to Anfield.

There was one voice at bitter-rivals Manchester United which exclaimed: "Thank God."

It belonged to Gary Pallister, who previously held the tag of the costliest transfer between British clubs.

England defender

Pally cost United £2.3million when he moved from Middlesbrough two years ago, and the giant centre-back today warns £2.9m. Saunders: You could also feel the heat.

"Dean will say his fee doesn't bother him," says Pallister.

"But I know it will. When it's constantly referred to, it becomes annoying.

"I couldn't be plain Gary Pallister — I was the £2.3m record transfer.

Ordeal

"I thought I could live with it, but when I made a bad start and was dubbed a flop who wasn't worth the money, it got to me."

"Dean could have a similar problem if he has a run without scoring."

Pallister came through his ordeal, but stresses: "It's nice to get rid of the title of being the most expensive player sold between British clubs. I was surprised my record didn't go when Mark Wright moved from Derby to Liverpool for £2.2m."

"But I wasn't too worried because I knew Deano was also on the move from Derby and he'd take it

from me.

"It's a big weight off my shoulders. I see Ian Rush has also said his big fee preys on his mind."

"He cost £2.8m when he returned to Liverpool from Juventus — the most expensive signing from a foreign club."

"It could be a bit easier for Dean. He's joined a more settled side than the one we had at United when I arrived."

"And at Old Trafford, there's the constant reminder that it's been 24 years since we last won the League title."

Superb

"They certainly don't have that pro-

blem at Anfield!"

And Pallister is backing Saunders to be a winner.

"You've got to rate him highly. I first played against him when I was at Middlesbrough and I was struck by his superb pace."

"Now he also knows where to run to hurt defenders. He's always going to get into scoring situations and playing for Wales has helped his game."

Pally will do his best to ensure Saunders doesn't justify his fee when Liverpool meet United.

But otherwise, he's happy to say to Dean: "The record fee is all yours, pal!"



DEAN SAUNDERS

KEEP GOING FOR MORE BIG EURO SOCCER NEWS



IN DOUBT: JOHN BARNES

EXCLUSIVE

Barnes shaker

JOHN BARNES could be the latest to join Liverpool's worrying injury list.

Amazingly, England star Barnes could be the FIFTH Anfield player suffering from Achilles tendon trouble.

Wales ace Ian Rush went into plaster last week, joining team-mates Barry Venison and Jimmy Carter.

Now Barnes and Glenn Hysen have also reported to the treatment room with similar

problems. Barnes could have joined the casualties in plaster but instead he had an injection in an attempt to clear up the problem.

Yet he had to pull out of Friday's friendly in Germany against Bayer Leverkusen.

It's a worrying development with the new football season just three weeks away. They are already resigned to kicking off against newly-promoted Oldham at Anfield without Rush and Steve McMahon.

STEVEN STUNNER

TREVOR STEVEN'S £5.5 million move to Marseille was on Sunday on the brink of collapse.

The deal would have made the 21-year-old England international midfield player a millionaire, and a Rangers teammate revealed: "Trevor's shattered."

Marseille chief Bernard Tapie, who announced he had signed Argentinian midfielder Leonardo Rodriguez and Yugoslav striker Alan Boksic, dropped the bombshell yesterday, saying: "I intend to sign another foreign player within two weeks, but it will probably not be Steven."

On Friday, Ibrox chairman David Murray told Marseille that the deal had to be completed by Tues-

day otherwise he would call it off.

But he had hoped to iron out the difficulties, saying: "Trevor is very happy here, that's why he signed a new contract. But, for the sake of everyone's peace of mind, we have got to get things sorted out."

Tapie also revealed that he was no longer interested in Liverpool's England striker John Barnes, after having a £4m bid turned down, saying the Anfield club wanted too much for him.

■ Leeds go to neighbours Bradford City on Wednesday night for former talent-spotter Maurice Lindley's all-ticket testimonial. Tickets are available from the two clubs, but none will be sold on the day of the game.



VERY SAD: TREVOR STEVEN

THIS WEEK ON SBS

YOUR SOCCER STATION

Saturday, August 3

★ World Soccer — 5:30pm

Main match: Copa America Final Phase Double Header — Argentina v Chile and Brazil v Colombia. Catch all the drama of the South American Championships in Santiago as the continent's top teams battle for the title.



Sunday, August 4

★ European Football — 11.30am

Main match: The final of the pre-Euro-92 tournament in Sweden: Italy v the Soviet Union. And as a bonus, also the play-off for third and fourth places, between Denmark and Sweden.

A bum Rush for a start!

LIVERPOOL striker Ian Rush has an Achilles injury and will miss the start of the English league soccer season next month.

Rush will be in plaster for the next four to six weeks and is expected to need a further two weeks to gain match fitness.

The 29-year-old player, scorer of

over 300 goals in his professional career, first picked up the injury in June in Wales' 1-0 win over Germany in a European championship group five game.

Liverpool, runners-up to Arsenal in the league last season, begin the new campaign with a home game against newly-promoted Oldham Athletic on August 17.

Reds clear out

Danish midfielder Jan Molby, Swedish defender Glenn Hysen and Israeli striker Ronny Rosenthal look to be on their way out of Anfield after being axed from Liverpool's squad for its five-match European tour.

Liverpool manager Graeme Souness is missing the injured Ian Rush, Steve McMahon, Barry Venison, Jimmy Carter and Jamie Red-

knapp, but still could not find room for the international trio.

It will inevitably increase speculation that the trio's days are numbered at Anfield following Souness' arrival from Glasgow Rangers.

Before he left, Souness said: "Reputations or price tags count for nothing with me. I don't give a damn for them."

"I don't want players who perform when they want to and I think one or two of them were guilty of that last season."

"If a player gives you

100%, you can't ask for more than that. Anybody who gives me everything he's got will be in my team every week."

Meanwhile, former Luton strikers Brian Stein and Marc North are set to re-sign for the English First Division club and soften the blow of losing Danish international Lars Elstrup, who has returned home.

Stein, 33, had 11 years at Luton, but was given a free transfer and moved into French football in 1988.

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